

the chronicle



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Inferno wrecks saddlery site

FIRE tore through the former home of an historic saddle-maker in Walsall town centre, forcing residents and buildings evacuated.

Sixty firefighters tackled flames at Jabez Cliff and Co, in Lower Forster Street. The firm moved to Aldridge in 2009 and the crumbling building was earmarked to become a new £3 million health centre with two doctors' surgeries, a pharmacy and an optician.

Fire engulfed the ground, second and first floors of the 60m by 30m factory on Monday. A man was rescued by fire crews but did not need hospital treatment.



Billowing smoke pictured by Chronicle reader Diane Brookes

BARGAIN RUSH AS STORE AXED



Paul and Joan Cummings, who spent just £6.92 on three bags of clothes

HUNDREDS of shoppers crammed into Walsall's TJ Hughes on its final day of trading in a bid to hunt out the last of the store's bargains. Shoppers descended on Park Street from 10.30am on Sunday as prices on some were slashed by a massive 90 per cent.

Administrators Ernst & Young have shut the store with the loss of 41 jobs – one of 22 to close around the country – while they seek to sell off the remaining business, including 31 other TJ Hughes stores.

Staff frantically manned tills on Sunday under pressure from bargain hunters piling into the store.

Shelves were barren, with the top floor closed, and a mismatch of items left in baskets at the end of what once were aisles for customers to dig through.

Grandmother

The entire rear half of the shop had been plundered by shoppers, who had seen prices cut from 30 per cent off early last week to a whopping 90 per cent off yesterday.

Joan Cummings and husband Paul, a ratty driver, from Rowley Street, Walsall, unearthed three bags full of deals, including jeans, ladies tops, and make up, all for £6.92.

Mrs Cummings, a grandmother, said: "It was crazy in there, people were just putting stuff in bags without even looking at the sizes."

Gemma Tindill, a 24-year-old nurse from Terret Close, in Bloxwich, left with skirts, shorts, trousers, a jacket and 10 pieces of costume jewellery, including rings and necklaces for just £11.

She said: "I felt sorry for the staff at TJ Hughes."



Frantic shoppers search for bargains



Empty shelves at the store in Walsall



Specsavers manager Monica Brocklebank, back right, with youngsters from Chernobyl after they received their new glasses

Youth injured as theft cuts power to homes

POLICE warned this week of the dangers of stealing electrical cable following a serious incident during which a 16-year-old youth was injured and a large area of Walsall was blacked out.

Officers were called to reports of a loud bang and the sound of screaming near a canal bridge on Livingstone Road, Bloxwich at 11pm on Monday. On arrival, they discovered damage to a power cable above the canal.

Urgency

A short time later three males presented themselves at hospital.

One of them, a 16-year-old boy, had suffered injuries which it is believed he had sustained during this incident. The other two men, both aged 21, were arrested on suspicion of theft and a scrap metal van was seized. They were still in custody the next day.

Acting Chief Inspector Paul Farley, of Walsall police, said: "It is clear from looking at the scene that someone had attempted to

saw through a live electric cable. Aside from the fact that it is clearly illegal, there is a real danger of death for anyone who attempts to commit this type of offence."

"As well as the personal risks of injury and prosecution, there are also implications for the wider community as we saw."

Peter Lowe, security risk manager for Western Power Distribution, said: "We are too often shocked at the lengths thieves will go to in attempting to steal cable from the electricity network."

The potential gain from the theft is so low compared to the ultimate risks people take, and no consideration is given to the suffering they cause to the wider community through the loss of electricity supplies."

Anyone with any information about this incident or metal theft in general is urged to call police on 0345 113 5000 or speak to the Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Land sell-off may pay for £2.6m library

APPLICATIONS for planning permission for six parcels of land to be sold off to fund the new Bentley Library in Walsall have been submitted, it has been revealed.

A new £2.6 million library is due to be built on land off Queen Elizabeth Avenue subject to planning permission.

Council chiefs have now reiterated their commitment to the scheme.

It is hoped the new library, for which designs have already been drawn up and selected, could be part funded through the sale of land owned by Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Council.

The land in question is at King Charles Avenue, Kent Road, Churchill Road, Wilkes Avenue, Berkley Close, the former clinic in Churchill Road and the Old Hall public house in Churchill Road.

Achieved

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "We've been standing shoulder to shoulder with the residents in Bentley to help secure a new building that residents will be proud of."

"The totally unforeseen economic downturn caused by the banking crisis has been devastating for this project.

"We had hoped that the six parcels of land could be sold for development several years ago but that's just not the case."

"What we've now done is look to secure planning permission for development. If this can be achieved, would-be developers would have a lot more confidence that the land could be developed."

Man accused on stolen X-Boxes

A MAN accused of handling more than £1,200 worth of stolen electronic games has appeared in court.

Craig Neary, aged 38, faced one charge of receiving stolen goods, including X-Box consoles, valued at £1,250 belonging to Amanda Hayward, from Darlaston, on December 21 by video link at Walsall Magistrates' Court. The defendant, of Heathfield Lane, Darlaston, denies the charge.

Neary was remanded in custody until September 9.

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Jodie proves she can cut it

A TRAINEE hairdresser from Willenhall has proved she is a cut about the rest by passing her course with flying colours.

Jodie Burgess, aged 18, has passed her National Vocational Qualification level two course in hairdressing. Preparation to attain the work-based certificate started on the first day of duties at Montys Hair Salon, in Great Bridge, three years ago when she arrived as an apprentice.

A former pupil at St Thomas More Catholic Business College, in Willen-

hall, she said working in the high street salon was a dream come true.

"I've been working here since I left school. I've always wanted to be a hairdresser. I love it here," Jodie said. "I like colouring the most. I would like to specialise in colouring, it takes a lot of work, training and extra courses."

"I joined as an apprentice and trained on the job. Saks hair academy used to come in and give me one-to-one tuition every six weeks and my boss Susan Hodgson gives me a session once a week."

Old leisure centre fails to attract developers

ONLY one bid has been made for the doomed Willenhall Leisure Centre despite a last-ditch appeal to save the building.

No expressions of interest were received within a five-week time frame, but council bosses decided to allow an 11th hour bid.

Walsall's regeneration boss said last week that the lack of interest was disappointing and if no acceptable solution was found, the Bath Street building would be flattened.

The leisure centre closed down in August last year as part of council cost-cutting measures.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "In terms of people who showed an interest before the deadline on August 5 at midday, there were no official tenders."

"There was one that came just after the deadline closed, so we decided to accept that rather than dismissing it completely."

Proposal

"As a council we have exhausted every opportunity to try to save the site. Whether people have looked at the site and then decided against it I don't know, but it is disappointing."

The local authority will look at the bid that has been received in the coming weeks. If a proposal is deemed suitable would-be developers would be given 21 weeks to apply for planning permission, if required.

Documents detailing the type of development that would be suitable – including a cinema, offices, health clinic and creche – have already been drawn up.

The building had originally been earmarked for demolition costing £200,000, but was then put on the market in a last-ditch effort to save it.

Fears have been raised that the sale of the building was being jeopardised by metal thieves repeatedly plundering it. The centre was closed after being revealed as one of the worst performing in the borough.

Council looking for bright ideas

TOWNSFOLK in Walsall have been urged to have their say on plans to light up the landmarks of the town centre as part of a new £116,000 scheme.

Under the proposals, attractions such as the Waterfront development would be highlighted by markers in the pavements and statues such as the concrete hippo would be illuminated.

Council bosses teamed up with Walsall College and The New Art Gallery on the project and residents can have a say on the features to be included.

Funding has come from agreements with private developers, given permission to build in the town. To comment on plans call 01922 652537.

Blood donor day

VOLUNTEERS are invited to donate blood in Walsall next Friday, August 25.

The Community Centre in Station Road, Pelsall, will be open between 2pm and 4pm, and again from 5.30pm. Attendance by appointment is urged on 0300 123 23 23.



Deon McFarlane, fined £600 after undelivered post was discovered at his home

Hannah Moore-Kelly, 80 hours unpaid work for hoarding letters that were supposed to be delivered

David Spiers dumped letters near Dudley Zoo and was jailed for six months, suspended for two years

Glen Miller stole £40 after opening 18 packages. Four-month jail term suspended for two years

Benjaminine Bryan got a six-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, for hiding 9,000 items of mail

tors later discovered undelivered mail in his kitchen drawer.

Both Shaun Maley and Hannah Moore-Kelly worked for the Royal Mail for a matter of weeks before bosses' suspicions were aroused.

Maley, 21, was rumbled two months after starting in February while Moore-Kelly, also 21, lasted just six weeks.

The pair hoarded thousands of items, recovered from Maley's car and Moore-Kelly's home.

Maley, of Fuchsia Drive, Pendeford,

but who worked in Halesowen, was struggling to keep up with his deliveries, the court heard. And Bilston-based postwoman Moore-Kelly, of Wells Road, Penn, was "out of her depth", her lawyer claimed.

Maley faces sentence later this month while Moore-Kelly was ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work for her hoarding.

Dudley postman David Spiers didn't even bother taking some of his undelivered post home – instead, he dumped thousands of letters near Dudley Zoo.

Glenn Miller was a trusted veteran of 23 years' service. But the 44-year-old, of Scalf Way, West Bromwich, succumbed to temptation, stealing £40 after opening 18 packages.

Miller, said to be suffering financial difficulties due to the break-up of his marriage, received a four-month prison term, suspended for two years, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Ruth Barnes, of Royal Mail, which employs 163,000 workers nationwide, said bosses had a "zero tolerance approach to dishonesty".

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Hall price up to £3m

THE asking price for a derelict mansion near Walsall has rocketed by more than a third.

Grade II-listed Great Barr Hall had been put up for sale with a £2.2 million price tag but is now back on the market for more than £3m after a deal to sell to a mystery buyer fell through.

The 12-bedroom hall has been returned to the market

by Buckinghamshire agents Van Weenan.

A spokesman said the increase reflected the value of the land included.

Campaigners want the 18th century house, which dates back to the 18th century and was once owned by the Scott family to be preserved and the 50-acre estate to be kept free of development.



Great Barr Hall - back on the market priced at £3 million

Suspect car wash on £1m homes site

AN UNAUTHORISED car wash has opened up on the site of a former Walsall pub which is earmarked to become one of the borough's biggest and most expensive homes, says the council.

The business is running from the Three Crowns car park in Sutton Road where plans to convert it to a luxurious six-bedroom house and build three other £1 million properties have been submitted to councillors. Ten car washes suspected of being illegal are under investigation by Walsall Council.

Bosses have vowed to crack down on unauthorised businesses set up without planning permission and are now due to consider enforcement action to close the Sutton Road site.

Discussed

David Elsworth, head of planning and building control, said: "The car wash at the former Three Crowns site is operating without planning permission and officers are preparing a report for the planning committee."

Moves for the residential development off the main route, which links Walsall to Pheasey, are due to be discussed by the planning committee next month. A previous attempt to transform the empty pub and build another four £1 million mansions around it was rejected by the council last year.

Lights repair bill reaches £18,000

ALMOST £18,000 has been spent fixing a set of traffic lights in Walsall that have become a magnet for vandals.

The lights at Station Road, Rushall, were attacked twice and even stolen last month. Council chiefs urged members of the public to report any vandalism, as it was revealed the latest bill for damage was £2,000.

Transport boss Tom Ansell said: "The vandals caused so much damage that the wires, which have 240 volts of electricity running through them, were left exposed. This posed a great danger to the public."

Since 2006, the council has spent £18,000 on repairs and residents still can't use the lights following the latest attack.

Red route fines net £14,000

THOUSANDS of pounds in fines have been raked in by Walsall and Sandwell councils from motorists who have flouted red route restrictions.

Over a 12-month period, drivers have forked out more than £14,000 for parking or stopping on double red lines in the two neighbouring boroughs, based on calculations that each of the 402 drivers paid the minimum £35 penalty charge. However, the true cost

is likely to be much higher as drivers who do not pay within 14 days must pay double that amount.

In Walsall 106 penalty charge notices were handed out. The penalties carry a £70 fee, however, if paid within two weeks, that is reduced to £35.

The council says it is impossible to calculate exactly how much was collected as some fines would have been appealed and some may be outstanding.

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Great Barr Hall - back on the market priced at £3 million

Plans to convert pub

A FORMER pub in Darlaston which has become a magnet for yobs could be converted into flats under plans recently unveiled.

The Royal Exchange, in Wolverhampton Street, closed down some six months ago and has attracted anti-social behaviour from youths.

A plan has been submitted to convert the pub into apartments in a bid to crackdown on nuisance behaviour there.

A statement to council chiefs by

agents Thorne Architecture said: "The applicant considers that the sooner the site is fully occupied the better in terms of eliminating the nuisance."

Under plans the building would be converted into four single-bedroom apartments and one two-bed apartment. A cycle shelter would also be created and surrounding land would be landscaped with shrubs. One parking space will be provided per apartment.

Ex-teacher jailed over indecent images find

A FORMER teacher and church warden from Great Barr has been jailed for six months after he admitted possessing more than 860 indecent images of children.

Married IT and science teacher Robin Worrall worked at the former Dartmouth High School, now Q3 Academy, and at West Bromwich's George Salter Secondary School, now known as George Salter Collegiate Academy, before becoming a supply teacher in 1999.

There was no suggestion that any of the photographs are of children from the schools at which Worrall had taught.

The court heard he had also worked as a church warden at St Mark's Church in Smethwick, where he is a member of the congregation.

Obsession

At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, Judge Jonathan Gosling heard Worrall had developed an interest in pornography over the last 10 years which led him to use his credit card to buy incident images of children as young as 13 and view them on his home computer. Police found 862 images of children, with more than 600 at "level one" and more than 250 at the more serious "level two" on a five-point scale.

He was also found with almost 100 pornographic images involving animals. Placing him on the sex offenders' register for seven years, Judge Gosling told Worrall the "revolting" images were his "dirty secret".

He said: "Parents of the children you were trusted access to would have been horrified had they known of your obsession."

With his family in the public gallery, Worrall, of Smethwick, was disqualified from working with children for life.

Accused couple deny harassing neighbours

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A HUSBAND and wife from Walsall have appeared in court accused of hurling abuse and threats at their neighbours over a period of more than 12 months.

Matthew and Carol Elmore are alleged to have harassed residents in Gipsy Lane. The couple appeared together at Walsall Magistrates Court on August 9.

Dressed in jeans and a hooded jacket, Matthew Elmore, aged 36, of Gipsy Lane, Willenhall, denied a charge of harassment against him. His 37-year-old wife also pleaded not guilty to the same charge. Indira Sharma, prosecuting,

said the alleged offences spanned more than a year. "The victims say they have been harassed in a number of ways, threatened by the defendants and their families, and suffered torments of abuse and harassment by them," Ms Sharma said.

Panel

"The abuse has gone on for some time, and as a result they have had to install CCTV by Walsall Housing Group."

Ms Sharma told the magistrates that the alleged threats of violence spanned a 21-month period from September 2009 until June 2011. The prosecutor also said the case was suitable to be tried at the magistrates court before a panel of justices.

The Elmores are due to appear at the court next Wednesday, August 24, to fix a date for trial. They were released on conditional bail.

Brutal duo sentenced to 20 months in jail

TWO thugs who punched a man up to 20 times after he left a Sikh temple have been locked up for 20 months. A court heard the savage beating handed out to Jaspal Singh was unprovoked.

After a drinking spree Desmond Quinn, 21, of Willenhall, and Craig Platt, aged 25, kicked the victim and hit him with hand held massage device, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The brutal duo had targeted him as he walked home across open space in Villiers Street, Wolverhampton, after worshipping at nearby temple, said Cathlyn Orchard, prosecuting.

Miss Orchard said Mr Singh needed hospital treatment to facial injuries.

Platt, of Parkfields, Wolverhampton, and Quinn, of Huntingdon Road, New Invention, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and were sentenced by Judge Martin Walsh who told them: "This man had the misfortune of encountering the two of you who were responsible for entirely unprovoked violence. It was a sustained attack on a vulnerable victim in a public place involving the use of a weapon."



Accused couple - Matthew Elmore and Carol Ann Elmore from Willenhall

Hospital system is commended

HEALTH bosses in Walsall have been commended for the discharge system used on the Manor Hospital's children's ward.

The new, quicker way of discharging young patients creates more time to focus on those who are unwell.

The ward round system, in which consultants visit all the patients in the paediatric ward, has been changed so that those who are well enough to go home are seen in a new 8am ward round. As a result, beds are freed up and medical staff can concentrate on

poorly children still in hospital, who are seen during the formal ward round at 9.30am.

The system won third place in the Innovation category of the British Journal of Nursing Awards.

Kathryn Halford, associate director of nursing from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "Providing the best possible patient care at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is our absolute focus. The introduction of an earlier ward round at 8am means children who are fit to leave the hospital can be dealt with quickly."

Weight loss offer for townsfolk

WALSALL residents can sign up to a new weight loss programme in the borough.

The Evolve programme will run at Oak Park and Bloxwich leisure centres. Sessions start at the end of September and are aimed at helping people make realistic changes in their lives.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "This is about encouraging people to make very minor alterations to their lifestyle which can have a long-lasting impact on health and fitness."

The 12-week programme costs £40 which must be paid in advance or £3.50 a session. Men with a body mass index over 30 can attend for free.

Oak Park Leisure Centre is in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, while Bloxwich Leisure Centre is in High Street.

Wounding charge

A MAN accused of assaulting a woman in Walsall has appeared in court.

Mark Reid, aged 45, faced two counts of wounding, two counts of assault and robbery against Gail Anderson. The alleged incidents happened between June 1 and August 3.

Reid, of Forrester Street, Walsall, made no bail application at magistrates court and the case was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 28.

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Warning on charity collection

A CONCERNED Walsall resident is warning others of a possible charity bag scam in the area.

The resident, of Birmingham Road, who did not wish to be named, said he recently received a bag appealing for donations for 'Help Mates Ltd' – a Third World clothing collector.

After becoming suspicious he took his concerns to the internet where he discovered a host of

warnings about the 'bogus charity' which claims the goods collected are sold on for personal profit.

Contact

He said: "There is no official charity number on the bag which made me research the name. I was shocked at discovering it could be a scam and felt others need to be told of this terrible act."

Walsall Trading Standards

has urged anyone with any concerns to get in touch with them directly.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for communities and partnerships said: "Some are genuine charities, some are commercial and others are scams. We would advise householders to contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 if they have concerns about advertising material they receive."

It means larger properties that become vacant will then be used to rehouse families

Scheme offers aid with housing

A NEW scheme to help Walsall residents downsize and move house has been drawn up.

People are being offered help to move into smaller properties better suited to their needs. Walsall Council has worked with Walsall Housing Group and other housing associations to create the scheme.

It means larger properties that become vacant will then be used to rehouse families

which are struggling in overcrowded conditions. It has already helped 46 people who wanted a smaller home, while helping 45 families move to a larger property.

Stress

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "There are many older people in Walsall who are finding themselves in a property that is too big for their needs."

"Many tenants would like to downsize their property but don't know how to go about it, and don't want the stress that comes with it."

"This scheme takes away this stress."

Anyone who wants to downsize can call Helen Brookes at Walsall Housing Group on 0300 555 6666. Anyone renting a property who feels overcrowded should call Charlotte Brittain on the same number.

Man with drugs and gun is jailed for five years

A GREAT Barr man has been jailed for five years for firearms offence after being betrayed by the smell of cannabis in his car.

A police patrol noticed the distinctive odour as they passed a Ford Focus travelling in the opposite direction. The officers turned round and stopped the vehicle being driven by 22-year-old Niger Smith in Wellington Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said: "They had gone to investigate after catching a waft of cannabis and it seemed to them that he was under the influence of drugs."

"Smith put his head in his hands when they asked what was in a small bag that was in the car. It held seven rocks of crack cocaine."

Passenger

The discovery prompted a thorough search of the Focus that revealed a set of scales and several bags of skunk cannabis worth a total of £136 in the glove compartment and boot, the court heard.

Further examination revealed a zip bag hidden in a rear footwell. It contained a Browning pistol built to fire blanks that had been converted to live ammunition, and a magazine with three bullets.

Smith, of Kingsdown Avenue, Great Barr, admitted possessing a firearm and ammunition and crack cocaine, and having cannabis with intent to supply.

Car passenger Dominic Jones, 22, of Baltimore Road, Hamstead, admitted possessing cannabis and having the drug with intent to supply. He was jailed for 18 months.

Ex-Walsall player accused of rape

A FORMER Walsall FC player is to appear in court tomorrow (Friday) accused of raping a woman at a hotel.

Clayton McDonald, aged 22, is charged with an offence at the Premier Inn, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, north Wales, on May 30.

The former Saddlers defender, now with Port Vale, was jointly accused with Sheffield United's Ched Evans, and Prestatyn magistrates sent the pair to appear at Mold Crown Court.

No pleas were taken at the magistrates' court hearing on August 7.

New call for changes to busy commuter line

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

TRANSPORT bosses have called for changes to a busy train line between Walsall and Rugeley to stop the proposed loss of two rush-hour services used by hundreds of commuters daily.

The 6.21am Rugeley to Birmingham and 7.39am Hesdernford to Birmingham – both travelling through Cannock and Walsall – face being axed as part of a shake-up on the Chase Line.

But West Midlands transport authority Centro said transforming the route between Walsall and Rugeley into an electric line would allow more trains to travel along it and remove the need for a reduction in services.

Centro's Steve Swingley said: "We have been actively pressing Network Rail for the electrification of this line which would bring a number of benefits."

"At the moment the line is electrified from Birmingham to Walsall but not from Walsall to Rugeley, meaning only diesel trains can operate north of Walsall. This means mixed fleet of electric and diesel trains is required."

"If the whole line was electrified then only one fleet of electric units, of which enough trains are available, would be required and London Midland would not need to reduce services."

Train operator London Midland say no final decisions had yet been made and it was still in the consultation period.

Chances

Under the plans, the 6.21am and the 7.39am would be replaced with two new services leaving Rugeley at 5.55am and 8.06am. Five diesel trains would then be relocated elsewhere in the Midlands to bolster other services.

A recent survey revealed a third of passengers on some Chase Line trains already have to stand. Currently there are eight morning departures going from Hesdernford and Cannock to the city centre before 9am. The loss of the 07.39 from Hesdernford to Birmingham would leave a 36-minute gap.

Network Rail said it was in talks with both Centro and London Midland about electrification but the chances were slim.

Spokesman Keith Lumley said: "On a number of occasions we have looked at the possibility of electrifying this line. However, in simple terms the electrification does not meet the value for money criteria set for us by the Department for Transport. Having said that we, Centro and London Midland will have further talks."

Dinner with music

A CABARET dinner with music from The Drifters will take place at Banks's Stadium, Walsall, on October 15.

Tickets at £30 with a four-course meal or £18 for the show only are available by calling 01922 651414 or 414416.

For details call 01922 654510.



Richard Stynes, secretary of West Walsall Leisure Gardens

Fruit growers on alert after thefts

FRUIT bushes at a Walsall allotment site have been stripped by thieves – and there are fears they could strike again.

Blackberry, blackcurrant, gooseberry, white currant and strawberry crops have all been stolen in a spate of thefts since July at the Slaters Lane site in Pleck.

Richard Stynes, secretary of West Walsall Leisure Gardens which operates the site, said allotment holders were devastated but warned more thefts may follow as apple and plum trees become ripe.

He is asking residents and traders to be on the lookout in case the fruit is being sold in the area and to report any suspicious behaviour to police. Mr Stynes said: "As soon as the fruit has ripened it is being pinched."

"We can't get over it, it's been so blatant. Some trees are around seven years old and mature. You would mind if a few go, but they have been stripped bare. We have put signs up warning there is a thief about."

Enrolment days at college

A SUMMER recruitment drive to encourage people to sign up for courses at Walsall Adult and Community College is now under way.

Throughout this month, adverts are being placed on the sides of 30 buses as part of efforts to encourage residents to boost their learning.

The Your Deserve promotion aims to get people signed up for the academic year in September. The college runs

Grower of skunk cannabis given eight months

A MAN found growing 24 skunk cannabis plants in his Walsall home has been jailed for eight months.

Gary Shaw, aged 38, claimed the drugs were for his own use when his ten in Pommel Close was raided.

Ten of the plants were four weeks from maturity and would have produced 13oz of cannabis with a street value of more than £1,500, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

They were being kept in a cupboard under the stairs, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting. The other 14 plants were immature, he said.

Intention

Shaw, now of Wellington Road, Handsworth, admitted producing cannabis but insisted there was no intention to sell the drug.

Charnjit Jutter, defending, said Shaw had been smoking cannabis for 17 years and wanted to kick his habit. "He started using it to relax himself and it went from there."

Shaw had a 16-month sentence in 2002 for importing 10kg of cannabis at Manchester Airport.

Judge Jonathan Gosling told him: "There is increasing concern about the amount of cannabis that is being cultivated at people's homes."

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In swing for top honours



Calderfields Golf and Country Club director Alan Tranter and Graham Jackson celebrate getting the GoffMark high achiever status and Sports England Clubmark

A GOLF club in Aldridge has been honoured with two awards for its standards.

Calderfields Golf and Country Club, in Aldridge Road, has achieved the Golf Mark high achiever status and the Sports England Clubmark.

High achiever status acknowledges high standards in coaching and playing, club environment and child protection – and goes to great lengths to encourage and develop its young members.

To achieve a Sports England Clubmark it had to show quality in playing, management, knowing the club and community, and protecting children and young people.

Juniors' organiser Graham Jackson said: "We are elated after a lot of hard work."

Secretary, 70, wins sacking claim

A WALSALL firm of solicitors has been ordered to pay to a 70-year-old legal secretary more than £20,000 after sending her a letter following an illness stating that her work had dried up and she should "enjoy a golden retirement".

Pam Shea, of Sutton Coldfield, told Birmingham Employment Tribunal that she had been shocked by the letter.

Mrs Shea made compensation claims against Edmunds & Co of Bradford Street, Walsall, for age discrimination, breach of contract and

unfair dismissal. The firm, which was not represented at last week's hearing, had told her she had been involved in a redundancy situation, the tribunal was told.

Ms Del Priore, representing Mrs Shea, alleged that her client had been unfairly dismissed to save the firm costs.

Penalty

"She had been employed for 11 years, was trusted and well organised."

Ms Priore accused the firm of unreasonable behaviour after two previous hearings had to be adjourned.

"Now they have failed to attend the third hearing," she said.

Tribunal judge Mrs Vera Jones agreed that Mrs Shea had been unfairly dismissed. She said her breach of contract claim was successful, but dismissed her age discrimination claim.

Mrs Jones awarded Mrs Shea, of Sutton Coldfield, a total of just over £20,000 which included £11,235 for unfair dismissal, plus a 25 per cent penalty increase.

This was because the firm failed to carry out the proper dismissal procedure, she said.

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Farewell to 'Forgotten Army' jungle war veteran

TRIBUTES have been paid to a member of the 'Forgotten Army' who fought the Japanese invaders in Burma. Ted Williams has died aged 88 after battling prostate cancer for many years.

Son-in-law Keith Wyke said: "He was a very optimistic guy who always looked on the bright side. He was very sociable and his jokes were legendary."

"If you went into Walsall town centre

today and asked 'do you know Ted Williams?', it wouldn't be too long before you found someone who did."

Grandchildren

Mr Williams was born in Darlaston in 1922 and enlisted aged 17 in 1939. He was sent to Burma in 1941, where he encountered the Japanese enemy and engaged in often bloody combat.

Speaking to schoolchildren last year,

Mr Williams recalled: "We hardly had any water because the Japanese would poison all the pools."

"We learned where to cut bamboo to get water from the shoots."

"One Japanese officer ran out of the bushes at me with his sword above his head and cut me. 'He's not having my arm', I thought, so I stuck my bayonet in him. It was the first time I had to do it."

The term 'Forgotten Army' is believed

to have been coined by the commander of

the 14th Army, Lieut Gen Bill Slim, because of the lack of media attention given to the Burma campaign.

On his return from war Mr Williams joined the TA and began work as a crane driver at Rubery Owen, in Wednesbury. He married his sweetheart Gladys and they had six children.

The funeral, attended by standard bearers from the Royal British Legion, took place last week at St Mark's Church, Tipton, near his home.



Ex-soldier Ted Williams

Verdict on substances in gardens is due soon

FAMILIES will soon find out whether land on a Black Country housing estate will be classed as contaminated, as final test results are scrutinised.

Decisions will be made shortly on the homes in Willenhall, ending a two-year wait for residents.

Homes in Kemble Close, Brookthorpe Drive and Oakridge Drive were found to contain traces of heavy metals, tars and a gas-manufacturing by-product known as Blue Billy.

The homes were built on the site of the former Willenhall Town Gas Works which shut down in the 1960s, and 89 gardens have been found to contain the substances. Consultants from Walsall Council have reviewed the results of final tests carried out on the estate, and the information is being used to make decisions on which gardens to categorise as contaminated.

Complex

Officers at the authority have previously said declaring the land as contaminated is a complex process, but an important step in making sure the site is cleaned up properly.

Councillor Tom Ansell, cabinet member for transport and environment, said: "We've reviewed the results from testing of gardens in the area and this information is being used to help us decide which properties will need to be classed as contaminated."

"The council has been in contact with residents who are likely to be affected to confirm their contact and land ownership details. This information is necessary to make sure that all with an interest or responsibility for the land are notified of the outcome of the investigation."

The homes were built on the site in the 1970s, and it is believed the area was not properly cleared.

Residents in properties where the substances were found were told not to eat vegetables grown in their gardens, and to always use gloves when weeding. They were also told not to build extensions on their homes while investigations were carried out.

Roof at flats is set to be replaced

INVESTIGATION from WHG will see the roof of a 1960s block of flats in Walsall replaced.

Scaffolding has been put up around the three-storey block in Penkridge Close, Birchills.

The new roof will improve the insulation of the block and could help drive down customer fuel bills. The exterior of the block will also benefit from partial thermal insulation.

Work is being carried out by WHG construction partner Wates and will cost around £60,000. It is part of a rolling programme to replace the roofs of WHG's blocks of flats over the coming years.

Fuchsia gathering

SUTTON Coldfield Fuchsia Society will open on September 8 at 8pm.

Pat Rogers and Gordon Reynolds will lead a discussion on Over Wintering Fuchsias. The competition for the month is "A Spray of Berries".

And on Saturday, it is the Sutton Coldfield Fuchsia Society Annual Show.

Homes to be built on town's derelict land

Energy firm is looking for great ideas

A WALSALL energy project is in with a chance to win a cut of a £500,000 fund in a national competition linked to the television show River Cottage.

Pelsall-based group Green Energy now wants residents and community groups from across the borough to get on board with good ideas after it was selected from more than 1,000 entries for the second stage of the Energyshare competition.

It involves an idea for a scheme incorporating a food garden which would result in generating free fuel which could benefit the community in the future.

Precedent

The initial proposal to find free energy sources to generate an income for communities was put forward by group organiser Danielle Jeynes. It has now made it to the final 100 groups.

"The long-term aim will be that the community of the town will be striving towards a better quality of life, health and wellbeing. It will set a precedent for others," Ms Jeynes said.

The group is aiming to attract supporters from across the borough.

More details about Walsall's Green Energy project are on the www.energyshare.com/green-energy website.

Fun and frolics at Banks's Stadium

SUMMER fun will be on offer at Walsall FC's next home game on Saturday.

A family fun day will be held as Saddlers face up to fellow League One side Yeovil Town.

An inflatable slide, bouncy castle, music, entertainment and free face painting will be on offer, as well as treats from Cadbury's.

A special ticket offer is also in place, with one adult and up to two juniors able to attend for £10.

Festivities start at around 12.30pm at the Banks's Stadium, off Bescot Crescent. Call the ticket office on 01922 651414 to book tickets.

A PATCH of derelict land in Walsall will be given new life after a decade of fly-tipping plans to build 22 homes. Long-suffering householders living near vacant land between Castle Street and The Green in Darlaston have put up with the eyesore for years.

An unnamed developer secured approval from Walsall Council to build homes on the land two years ago, but the project stalled as the company battled with the tough economic climate.

The firm has now applied to tweak the plans and get on with the scheme and Councillor Bill Madeley, of Bentley & North Darlaston ward, said: "I'm all in favour of this development. It has been an area that has not been used for quite a few years."

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

"Environmental health has been cleaning it up over the years. I would like work to start as soon as possible because people are fed up with it."

"They were expecting the place to be developed some time ago."

"I'm really pleased – and I'm pleased for the people in the area who have wanted it cleared up."

Consent

Councillor Madeley added that some foundations had been laid, and he had been pushing for more information about the project from council bosses, so he was delighted to hear it was finally moving forward.

The 22 flats will be built in three-storey blocks on the land.

The developer has applied for consent to use the top storey of each block for another room with roof lights, and for dry bricks to be used for the roof verge.

Agent John Mason, representing the firm in the planning process, said in the application: "The proposed change to roof detail will overcome the long term maintenance concerns, resulting in a development that will retain its appearance over time rather than becoming neglected."

Athletes on track at summer camp

A SUMMER athletics camp for youngsters is due to run in Walsall next week.

The Star Track Summer Athletics Camp is being organised at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College in Erdington Road, Aldridge, from Monday to Friday, August 22-26.

Children aged eight to 14 can join in from 9am and 1pm for £9 per day, or £38 for the week. Call 01902 605500 for details.

New community shop set to open

A COMMUNITY education and activity service in Walsall is poised to open its own shop next week to generate funds.

Bloxwich Community Partnership will launch the charity shop New 2 Meat at Blakenall Community Centre, Blakenall Row. The opening is on Monday.

It will stock, among other things, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac, toys, puzzles, clothing and jewellery.

The grand opening event will be between 10am and 1pm.

Two aspiring ballerinas at a Walsall dance school were top of the class with their graceful pirouettes.

Francesca Kennedy, aged 11, and Emma Woolley, 18, both from Walsall Dance Academy, scored high marks in recent exams. Francesca's excellent score for her grade five ballet examination netted her a scholarship nomination by the International Dance Teachers' Association.

The pupil at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College, Aldridge, will now attend a national audition to

for a cash bursary to go towards tuition costs at the Butts Street academy.

Emma, a trainee dance tutor, scored 88 per cent in both of her teachers' exams.

She has just completed a course at Walsall College and from next month will attend Coventry University to

study for a dance degree.

Group seeking volunteers

A HERITAGE group in Walsall has appealed for volunteers to help out with events at its general meeting.

The Willenhall Heritage Trust and the Lock Museum Friends Group had their meeting last week at Bellamy House in Wilkes Street.

They said to run activities during the school holidays, volunteers are needed. An open day will be held on August 25 between 10.30am and 1pm at the Lock-

smith's House in New Road, to drum up support. Senior curator at the Black Country Living Museum Jo Moody

was also introduced at the general meeting and talked about the changes and responsibilities at the museum.

Stan Taylor, chairman of the friends group, said: "The meeting concluded Jo Moody for her efforts and we were all very pleased to see the programme of activities that are being developed."

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Miss Challoner of Wolverhampton

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New units for town retailers

ALDRIDGE High Street is set to receive a boost with the creation of four fully serviced retail units designed to attract smaller independent retailers into the area.

Landlord Gerry Leighton says he is keen to see the type of business that is currently missing from the High Street moving in to the premises.

He says: "We're aiming to make it easier for either new or existing retailers to get up and running."

"There will be a facilities management charge, but it means the businesses will have a reduced capital outlay at the start. We're also happy to be flexible on the lease, depending on the requirements of different kinds of shop."

"The important thing is to keep the High Street alive."

Anyone interested in the units can contact Mr Leighton on sales@fuk.net or 01922 453932.



Gerry Leighton at the new units in High Street, Aldridge

Machete left by arsonist

AN ARSONIST set fire to a sofa at a house in Willenhall and left a machete behind at the scene.

The settee was set alight at a home in Worcester Road, Willenhall, just before 10pm on August 9.

Firefighters from Willenhall and Walsall remained at the scene until 1.20am the following day.

Willenhall Crew Commander Andy Williams said there was "substantial damage". He said the arsonist had tried but failed to set fire to a pillow in the bedroom and then attacked with the machete.

The matter is now being dealt with by West Midlands Police. Anyone with information can call 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Academy bids for expansion

A WALSALL primary school which was the first of its kind in the Black Country to become an academy is bidding to expand its buildings.

Many of the classrooms at Park Hall Infant Academy are said to be undersized, a report has revealed.

Plans have now been submitted to Walsall Council to expand the buildings of the school in Park Hall Road.

School bosses are hoping to add a single storey side and rear extension to

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replace existing temporary classrooms.

Existing temporary classrooms would be demolished following the work.

Reception

A report submitted to planners on behalf of the school says: "Many of the existing classroom areas are undersized and the academy is reliant upon the use of two temporary classroom areas which are in a

poor condition and are inaccessible by wheelchair."

"The existing academy has three Year 1 classrooms and three Year 2 classrooms ranging between 43.6 sq metres and 50.4 sq metres in size."

"Each of these classrooms is classified as being under-sized."

The school has 180 pupils in total from reception to Year 2.

The expansion would not see an increase in the number of pupils at the school.

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Mary returns half winnings

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A GENEROUS pensioner has handed back half of her raffle winnings - £2,500 - to St Giles Hospice.

Mary Bate scooped £5,000 on the St Giles summer raffle and made the selfless donation as a thank you to the care her husband Alan received from the hospice six years ago.

Alan, an ex-ambulance paramedic in Cannock, was cared for by the hospice for three weeks before he died from asbestos in 2005, aged 74.

Her gesture was labelled as "incredibly generous" by the hospice, but Mary thought nothing of giving up 50 per cent of her jackpot.

"I knew that I wanted to give half of it back to the hospice," the 70-year-old said.

"Alan was in the hospice for three weeks and the care he received there was marvellous.

Dreamed

"He was the type of person who would have done anything for anyone, so it was comforting to see him being cared for by people who had the same attitude. From then on I decided I'd always do whatever I could to support St Giles."

Mary regularly bought tickets for the hospice's biannual bumper raffle, but said she never dreamed of scooping the £5,000 jackpot.

"It's the first time I have won anything and I'm still deciding what to do with the rest of the money."

Richard Simmonite, commercial manager of the hospice lottery, said: "I would like to congratulate Mary and thank her for her kind donation, which was an incredibly generous gesture."



Donation from kind-hearted pensioner Mary Bate

Messy event at church

THE next messy church event at St Matthew's Church in Walsall will be on Saturday, October 1.

Storytelling, crafts, games and food will be on offer in the hall in St Matthew's Close. Messy church is held quarterly, and the activities run from 4pm to 6pm.

A week long summer holiday club was held at the church centre in July to cater for five to 11-year-olds.

thechronicle

Man, 27, jailed for cannabis in motor

A WALSALL man has been jailed for 13 months after he was twice caught carrying illegal substances in cars.

Shafiq Karim, aged 27, admitted possessing cannabis worth £1,400 with intent to supply. Karim, of Willenhall Road, Darlaston, also admitted possessing cocaine and cannabis.

Helena Miller, prosecuting, said Karim was caught with cannabis after being stopped in a near his home.

She said: "Officers smelled cannabis and the defendant handed over seven bags and a small wrap of white powder from under the passenger visor of the Mondeo."

Miss Miller said Karim had been bailed to return to a police station for that offence but had failed to do so, leading officers to pull him over again, this time in a Renault Clio.

Weighing

She said: "Again there was a smell of cannabis and police found 15 bags. They also found keys for two vehicles parked nearby. In them were more than 70 bags of cannabis." Police also found bags of cannabis in Karim's house, which he told officers he allowed another dealer to use to prepare drugs.

He told officers the drugs in his possession were largely for his own use but admitted sometimes supplying cannabis to family and friends.

Defending, Mr John Evans said: "He was a heavy user of cannabis and had an association with a drug dealer. He became bound up in the cannabis world."

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Councillor Anthony Harrison on his 'wall of death' bike.
Picture: Stuart Williams



Sandcastle builder Zane Harrison, 5, from Heath Hayes

Mayor's super show draws in the crowds

WITH thrills and spills courtesy of a rip-roaring monster truck, breathtaking motorbike stunts, steam traction engines, historic fairground vehicles and Pat Collins latest fairground rides, Walsall Town Show turned out to be an unmissable feast of fun for all ages.

Shire and Clydesdale horses, a beach, musical



Stunt riders Chris Broad (left) and Dave Wiggins take off. Picture: Stuart Williams

By Stuart Williams

www.thebloxigetgraph.com

organs and a mobile illusionist and his beautiful assistant performing amazing feats of magic, plus fairground models and a nature exhibition and rabbit show as well as dozens of charity and other stalls, certainly gave teeming crowds of townsfolk and tourists alike two days to remember.

Music from the uniquely talented Eligh Toadd, a Black Country prog rock band, also kept feet tapping and hands clapping at the performance tent.

The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Garry Perry, opened the show, which ran at Walsall Arboretum from 10am-6pm last Saturday and Sunday, August 12-13.

Weather

Councillor Perry and the Mayoress, Mrs June Perry, stayed throughout to meet members of the public and promote the 2011-12 Mayor's Charity Appeal.

Walsall Town Show is now in its third year and was organised once again by Councillor Anthony Harris and his family, who run Pat Collins Fun Fair.

They resurrected the much-missed Walsall Town Show in 2009 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the "King of Showmen", Pat Collins, a fairground and cinema mogul with a nationwide empire centred in Bloxwich in the first half of the 20th century.

Many hundreds of people who packed out the Arboretum Extension over the two days were only too delighted that the event is now a regular date – and a firm favourite in Walsall's calendar.

Councillor Harris said: "We had the world-famous Van Buren Outdoor Variety Show making an appearance, live music, shire horses, the RSPB and the many usual displays of traction engines, stalls and rides."

"The 2009 show was fantastic and the whole of Walsall Arboretum was buzzing. Last year, we reckon we attracted hundreds of people, despite heavy downpours on the Saturday. We hope the 2011 show was the best yet and we certainly pulled out all the stops to make it one to remember."

The Mayor said: "Everyone has told us what a great weekend it is. We're raising money for my chosen charities and enjoyed greeting visitors."

The Mayor's Charity Appeal is fundraising for three causes: The Creating Chances Trust, The Swing and PROUD (Parents, Relatives and Others Understanding Down's Syndrome).

With admission just £3 for all and free car parking in the beautiful setting of the town's premier park, coupled with great summer weather, Walsall Town Show offered a great family weekend affordable by all – just what was needed to help cheer up Walsall folk in difficult times.

It certainly delivered on its promise.



The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Gary Perry, with Len Crane and his 1902 Burrell steam engine



Jake Walerzak, aged three, of Alumwell, is fascinated by a Continental giant rabbit

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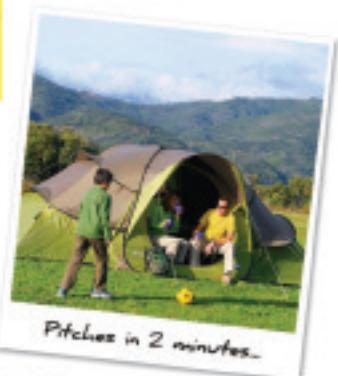
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thechronicle

Samurai sword dad jailed for wounding

Bus campaign joy



Valerie Vaz MP, left, celebrates with residents Doreen Laban, Julie Bosley and other campaigners at a 38 stop

A WALSALL MP visited hospital every 20 minutes, the people of Darlaston to Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz, who backed the petition, visited the area to catch up.

Purious residents had signed a petition that was sent to the House of Commons following the axing of the 639 bus. The service has now been reinstated and renumbered the 38, running from Wednesbury to Walsall via Darlaston, Kings Hill and the

Walsall MP visited hospital every 20 minutes. Residents of Darlaston to Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz, who backed the petition, visited the area to catch up.

Following the withdrawal of the 639 service residents of Kings Hill had to catch a combination of three buses to get to Walsall Manor Hospital, she said. "I am sure that the reintroduction of the route 38 will make life much easier for many residents."

"It caused a 7cm wide and long gash using the tip of the sword."

A MAN who attacked a house guest with a samurai sword after a boozy party in Walsall has been jailed.

David Tapper, aged 26, of Tasker Street, Walsall, fetched the weapon from his bedroom to attack 6ft 9in Dean Davenport, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The court was told that Tapper, who pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding, had asked Mr Davenport to leave after he had made unwanted advances towards a teenage girl, but refused to do so.

Tapper, fetched the weapon, brandished the two-foot sword above his head and sliced the side Mr Davenport's head.

Sending the father of two to prison for 10 months, Judge Jonathan Gosling told Tapper he had risked the life of the man he attacked.

Teenage

He said: "Any one who arms himself with a ferocious weapon such as this has to go to prison. It was two feet long and weighed more than a kilogram. I am surprised you could lift it to this very large man's head. It was reckless in the extreme and a very dangerous act."

Earlier, prosecutor Mr Glyn Samuel said the incident had arisen out of a party at Tapper's house in Tasker Street where he, Mr Davenport and two teenage girls had spent the evening.

He said: "The defendant sent a text to Dean Davenport inviting him round and the party at the house had been drinking. After the defendant asked Mr Davenport to leave he did not do so and then Mr Tapper took the sword from a stand in the window. He held it in front of him and swung it so it hit him on the head.

"Teenagers and residents in the area are invited to the event, organised by Walsall Council and Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shifield Area Partnership, which aims is to build positive relationships with young people.

View or comment on the plans at www.walsall.gov.uk

Home plans extension

A CARE home has applied extend its Willenhall site to include four extra bedrooms.

Inglewood Residential Home, in Banks Street, has applied for planning permission for a single storey side and rear extension and a two-storey side and rear extension.

Plans for an extension to the premises lodged with the council were withdrawn due to concerns of overdevelopment. A revised application was submitted last month.

View or comment on the plans at www.walsall.gov.uk

Free barbecue for residents

A FREE barbecue will be held at Ryders Hayes Park in Pelsall tomorrow, from 6pm until 8pm.

Teenagers and residents in the area are invited to the event, organised by Walsall Council and Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shifield Area Partnership, which aims is to build positive relationships with young people.

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thechronicle

Attacks on council workers increasing

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

MORE than 500 Walsall Council staff reported physical or verbal abuse in the last year and more than 150 suffered slips and trips, a report has revealed.

Both figures are up on last year and most departments reported a rise in violence.

Incidents ranged from swearing at council officers and abusive phone calls, to people in care hitting out at staff. There were also reports of council workers being hit by moving objects such as falling mop handles, dropped tools and even by opening or closing doors and gates.

The authority's annual health and safety performance report for 2010/11 revealed staff made 541 reports of violent incidents and 162 reports concerning slips and trips. The figures showed an increase from the previous year which stood at 460 violent incident reports and 140 reports of slips and trips.

In the report, senior safety advisor for Walsall Council, David Kempson, said: "Most of our directorates have experienced an increase in violent incidents and these are actively monitored at safety committee meetings each quarter."

The report also revealed there had been 72 reports of staff being hit by moving objects in 2010/11, while 32 staff reported fixed objects hitting them.

Accidents

The total number of accidents reported across Walsall Council's services, excluding schools, for the period was 532 - up 16 per cent on the year before.

But Mr Kempson said the number was still "very small" considering the number of staff employed and the number of work locations.

Figures collected by Walsall Children's Services Sero, which manages the borough's schools, found there had been 474 employee incidents in schools in 2010/11.

The council said all accidents were reviewed and work had been undertaken over the past couple of years to update the authority's incident reporting policy.

Councillor Chris Towe, council cabinet member for finance and personnel, said: "We have put a lot of effort into encouraging employees to report incidents, so it could be that more people are reporting them."

Saddlers sign up college



Teaming up, from left, Walsall Adult and Community College marketing manager Karen Donoghue, PA to principal Becky Greenwood, and WFC commercial manager Roy Whalley, at Banks's Stadium

WALSALL FC have unveiled their latest signing – the borough's adult and community college.

The college, which has more than 8,000 students on its roll, are the official match programme sponsors for the 2011/12 season.

Maria Gillings, principal of Walsall Adult & Community College, said it was a match made in heaven.

"We're delighted to be unveiled as the matchday programme sponsors of Walsall FC. This is the very first time the club has offered this

exciting opportunity, having never had another organisation or its logo appearing throughout its 68-page official matchday programme. To be the first, is an excellent coup for us."

The college will also appear on the club's website, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors each month.

Walsall FC's commercial director, Roy Whalley said: "We regard this as being a very important commercial and community relationship."

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Man, 20, in court over dog death

A FAMILY pet had to be put down after suffering a "sustained beating" by a Bloxwich man during an attack which lasted at least an hour, a court was told.

Seven-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier Molly had a fractured left femur, bruising to both eyes and suffered a haemorrhage at a flat in Circuit Close, Willenhall – injuries which led to her being put down. Wilson originally denied two counts of causing unnecessary suffering and two of not ensuring its welfare.

Adjourned

The 20-year-old, of Shugborough Close, changed his plea and admitted the offences ahead of a trial at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Molly belonged to Moira Harris, mother of Wilson's then girlfriend, Shona, and moved in with the couple to keep her company while Wilson worked nights. The next day he was left alone with the pet, which was found with blood around its head. Magistrates adjourned sentencing until August 24 with all sentencing options including prison.

Free fun day for charities

PEOPLE in Walsall are invited to a fun day in Pelsall featuring face painting and bouncy castles.

Ness Common will host the event on August 30, from 11am until 4pm. It will also include rides, inflatables, charity stalls, Punch and Judy, music, face painting and storytelling. Walsall Council's parks team has arranged the free even.

All proceeds will go to the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

Supermarket closure brings 36 job losses

A SUPERMARKET in the heart of Willenhall is to close with the loss of 36 jobs. Somerfield, in New Road, is being axed by the national supermarket chain due to "poor trading performance" after three rivals opened nearby.

The store shuts on September 8 and bosses say they will try to redeploy staff.

Helen Seed, for owners The Co-operative Group, said: "It is not in any way a reflection on the commitment and hard work of the store team."

"The Somerfield store on New Road, Willenhall, is due to close on September 8. "The decision has been taken with the greatest reluctance and every effort will be made to redeploy as many as possible of the nine full time and 27 part time staff with The Co-operative or to help them find alternative employment."

The Co-op bought the Somerfield chain in 2009 in a deal worth £1.57 billion.

Prior to becoming a Somerfield, the Willenhall store traded as Gateway.

Standing

Calls have already been made for the prominent building not to be left standing empty on one of the main roads through the town.

Willenhall South ward's Councillor Carl Creamey said: "I think it was probably hard for the store to compete with the new Morrisons and a Tesco up the road as well as a big Lidl in the same street."

"But it's a big building and it can't be left standing empty."

"We need to see what we can do to find out who owns the building."

Plans approved

AN UNNAMED developer is to build a shop with accommodation above it in High Street, Pelsall, under plans sent to Walsall Council.

Police hurt in crash



A police car damaged in a crash in Walsall Wood

TWO police officers were taken to hospital after their patrol car crashed.

Their vehicle collided with a Hyundai close to the Baron's Court Hotel last Tuesday afternoon, August 9, and the road had to be closed.

The officers were taken to

Walsall Manor Hospital with minor injuries, but a woman and a child in the Hyundai were uninjured.

On the same morning at about 8.30am, a woman was taken to hospital with a leg injury after two cars crashed in Bosty Lane, Aldridge.

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thechronicle

Classic motors get fans into top gear

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

ALMOST 3,000 enthusiasts got into top gear for the annual Classic Car and Transport Show at Walsall Arboretum Extension.

About 400 cars, motorbikes and buses were on display at the event, the 21st hosted by Walsall-based show organisers Linda and Geoff Price, of Transtar Promotions.

Fans feasted their eyes on exhibits including a 1952 Daimler bus which used to carry passengers around West Bromwich, a Ford dating back to 1921, and a 1960 BSA Super Rocket.

Interest

The overall show winner on August 7 was a 1928 Austin Chummy owned by Trevor Fawcett, of Burntwood, and a 1959 Austin Healey Sprite was judged best classic sports car.

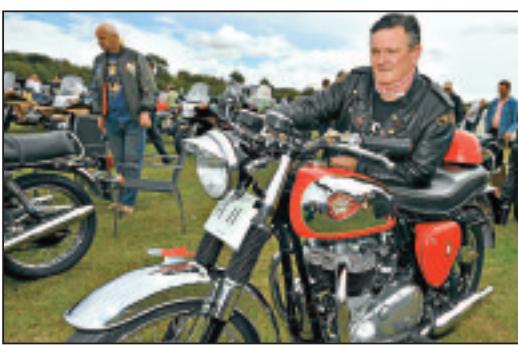
Healey owner Andy Elkington, aged 46, of Park Hall, Walsall said: "There was a lot of interest in the car and I do try to attend most of the Transtar shows to display it."



Andy Elkington and son Nicholas, aged 11, with his winning Healey



Graham Harper, left, Desmond Southgate, Dave Wootton, Howard Carter and Martin Clarke have been busy getting a 1952 Daimler bus which used to work out of West Bromwich back on the road.



Roger Vickerman proudly displays his gleaming 1960 BSA Super Rocket motorcycle at the Classic Car & Transport Show in Walsall

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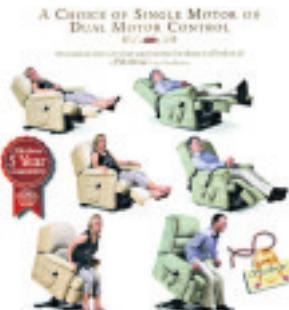
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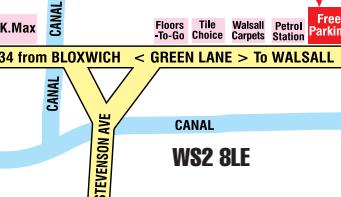
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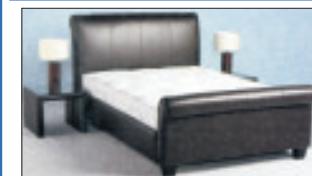
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thechronicle

Mike turns back pages of history for new book

Images of Walsall over the past 100 years have been captured in the pages of a new illustrated book by museum curator Mike Glasson which is attracting plenty of interest from local history fans.

Walsall Through Time aims to highlight some of the key locations and changes in the town – some dramatic and some slight – over the past century.

Mr Glasson, curator at Walsall Leather Museum,

said: "The scale of change in Walsall means that many of the earlier scenes for example the upper High Street and Digbeth are unrecognisable now, although some views have changed remarkably little."

"What has been particularly pleasing is that a lot of people have been saying how good Walsall looks."

Busiest

Among the buildings featured in the book are the George Hotel, the Olde Woolpack pub and Her Majesty's Theatre which have all now disappeared

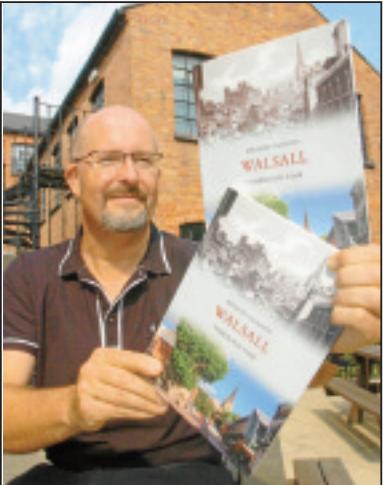
from the landscape of the borough.

Other existing buildings such as The Crossing and The Guildhall are included.

Readers can also see how one of Walsall town centre's busiest areas, The Bridge, looked back in 1910.

Mr Glasson often gives talks on historical items from Walsall's past and has written a series of books.

The book costs £14.99 and is available at the Leather Museum, in Littleton Street West; the Local History Centre in Essex Street and Waterstones in Park Street, Walsall.



Mike Glasson with his book about Walsall



A photograph of the George Hotel in 1935



The Bridge at Walsall in 1910

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Shop and pubs burglary charges

A WALSALL man has appeared in court and denied burglary of three pubs and a shop.

Daniel Billiard, aged 25, of Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, is charged with burglary at party shop Sweet and Fancy, in Park Road, Bloxwich, and with burglary at pubs

including the Romping Cat, in Elmore Green Road.

He was remanded in custody at Walsall Magistrates' Court and the case was adjourned until Friday, September 16 for committal to crown court.

Firefighter Neil's now an Iron Man



Proud Neil Parsons with his Iron Man medal in Bolton



Back to work at Aldridge fire station for Neil

WALSALL fireman Neil Parsons has been crowned an Iron Man when he completed the gruelling Iron Man UK challenge in Bolton, Greater Manchester.

The weekend started with an evening pasta loading meal at the Reebok stadium, home of Bolton Wanderers FC.

The soccer club's Premier League was transformed into a starry-lit sky that set the stage for an evening of celebrating alongside dozens of servicemen and women who had been wounded whilst serving their country.

Demanding

The story for each successful athlete was one of defying the odds.

It began when the cannon sounded at 6am on Sunday, July 31, and 1,269 competitors crossed the start line and plunged into open water to complete a two-loop, 2.4-mile swim at Pennington Flash Country Park in Leigh, on the outskirts of Wigan.

Athletes then rode 112 miles through beautiful, but demanding, countryside before embarking on the three-loop, 26.2 mile marathon run that ended by crossing the finishing line in front of Bolton Town Hall.

Neil works for West Midlands Fire & Rescue at Aldridge fire station.

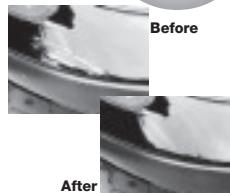


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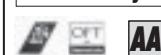
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New base for police meetings

POLICE officers who work from a satellite base in Walsall are being moved to a new site.

Pelsall neighbourhood policing team currently has the use of a community room at a Walsall Housing Group building in Trevor Road. But the base is being moved to a refurbished community room in Leyland Croft instead.

West Midlands Police rents three properties from the landlord for residents to report concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

Walsall Housing Group's head of housing services Gary Brookes said: "We work in partnership with West Midlands Police to strengthen communities and create safe neighbourhoods across Walsall."



From left: BE Wedge finance director Jon Parsons, Chris Pennick of Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets and BE Wedge chairman Jeremy Woolridge at the group's HQ

Wedge widens the door into Europe

A WILLENHALL galvanising business has been given a multi-million-pound injection by Lloyds Bank to boost its stake in a German business.

BE Wedge Holdings has received £11.5 million to increase its stake in German firm Siegener Verzinkerei Holding GmbH from 24 per cent to 49 per cent. The move enables Wedge to enhance its already strong presence across continental Europe.

Founded in Willenhall more than 140 years ago by John Wedge, BE Wedge is now the UK's largest hot dip galvanising group with a turnover of £95 million. It has a national network

of 14 UK plants as well as interests in leading galvanising businesses across Europe and the United States.

The family-controlled firm says it has consistently followed a successful policy of expansion, both in the UK and abroad. BE Wedge currently has a 30 per cent share of the UK galvanising market and this latest move to increase its international investment will boost the company's profit even in the European market.

Chris Pennick, a relationship director at Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets in the West Midlands, said: "BE Wedge is a prime example of a long-

standing Black Country business which has grown and developed with the times."

BE Wedge financial director Jon Parsons said: "Although our roots remain very much in the West Midlands, we are committed to driving growth through international as well as UK investment. This funding from Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets has enabled us to increase our stake in Siegener Verzinkerei Holding – a successful business and one of the largest galvanising groups in Germany, which also has affiliated companies in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Turkey."

Bosses vow to halt parking fine errors

BOSSES at Walsall's busiest retail park have promised to iron out the problems that have seen drivers wrongly issued with fines. Dozens of visitors to the Crown Wharf Shopping Park, off Wolverhampton Street, had been stung with £80 fines, despite paying, since a new system was introduced in May this year.

Drivers have to punch their registration number into a machine on arrival. It is believed the fines were sent out after full registration numbers were not entered correctly.

Now one hour of free parking has been scrapped and automatic number plate recognition technology introduced.

John Albany-Ward, at Munroes K Asset Management, which runs the shopping park, said: "Extra signs have been put up to make sure people know they have to pay and have to put their full registration number in."

"Anybody who has paid for the correct time will not be made to pay the fine."

"We are introducing a procedure which means if anyone has made a payment but has not entered their full registration properly, we will review it before a

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Parking Eye on behalf of the shopping park.

John Wadsworth, 66, of Streetley, has sought legal advice after being asked to pay £80. He claims drivers are confused by the changes.

Operators Parking Eye said: "The pay and display system at the Crown Wharf Shopping Park is designed to ensure all shoppers have fair access to car parking."

"The overwhelming majority of shoppers buy tickets without any problem. For those people who make a genuine error, we have a clear and fair appeals procedure."

"We abide by the British Parking Association Code of Conduct. More than 30 signs explain the pay and display system."



John Wadsworth

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Tuesday 23 August 9.00am to 6.00pm	•	•	•			•
Wednesday 24 August 9.00am to 6.00pm	•	•	•			
Thursday 25 August 11.00am to 6.00pm	•	•	•		•	
Friday 26 August 9.00am to 4.00pm	•	•	•			
Tuesday 30 August 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•			•
Wednesday 31 August 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Thursday 1 September 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Friday 2 September 9.30am to 4.00pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Saturday 3 September 9.30am to 2.00pm	•	•	•	•	•	•
Monday 5 September 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Tuesday 6 September 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wednesday 7 September 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Thursday 8 September 9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•	•	
Friday 9 September 9.30am to 4.00pm	•	•	•	•		
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thechronicle

Damp squib as water feature is still to open

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

WILLENHALL children have been missing out on summer fun due to delays in installing a new water feature in the town's park. New fountains and jets were to be switched on at Willenhall Memorial Park in time for the school holidays, but are not yet working, and parts of the play area are sealed off.

Walsall Council said work was being carried out on an electrical problem, but admitted it could take until next week to fix.

The new water attractions, along with a water play table, see-saw, roundabout and scramble slide are a £200,000 project.

Willenhall South's Councillor Diane Coughlan said children had been missing out during the sunshine.

"Summer is going to be over soon enough and the way things have gone so far it could be another few weeks before it is opened."

Scramble

Council chiefs say some of the equipment will need to be converted to work differently. The roundabout, scramble and slide unit in the younger children's play area also needs some adjustment, meaning part of the play area was closed off.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "We are so sorry that the new jets and fountains are not working."

"The last thing we wanted to do was open up the features when it became obvious there was a problem as we would have had to keep disappointing people by repeatedly closing."



The water play area at Willenhall Memorial Park

Walk leader training

KEEN walkers can attend a training session to become a walk leader in Walsall.

Walsall's Walk On programme is looking for volunteers to lead weekly walks and training is taking place on August 26 at Willenhall Memorial Park.

Once trained, volunteers will be able to act as walk leader or back marker on

any of the Walsall Walk On sessions.

Qualities needed include a passion for walking, good communication and organisation skills, a friendly personality, reliability and commitment. Leaders must be over 16. Once volunteers are trained, other opportunities such as first aid qualifications are available. For details, call 01902 605500.



Glyn Marston

Cruise can play me, says Glyn

A MARATHON athlete and charity fundraiser from Willenhall is in talks with a film company over a movie of his life.

Glyn Marston's autobiography 'Thud, Sweat and Tears' has ended up in the hands of a London-based independent film company.

Mr Marston's book features his personal battles including knee surgery, how he came to terms with epilepsy and the challenge of giving up cigarettes.

Decided

The 48-year-old, of New Invention, has run the length of Grand Canyon.

Father-of-two Mr Marston said: "It's exciting. They are just reading through the manuscripts, but it does make you dream about the possibilities."

He has not yet decided who should play him.

He said: "I don't know who would be best – maybe Tom Cruise?"

Free history event

EXHIBITS from history societies in Walsall will be on show at a free local history fair at Walsall Museum from 10.30am to 3.30pm on September 17.

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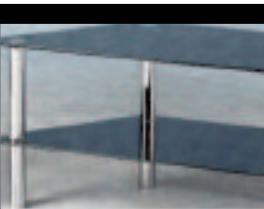
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Voice of Mac is back

**Stevie Nicks
- In Your Dreams**

ONE of the most distinctive voices in rock, Nicks' nasal vibrato is a key element in the supergroup Fleetwood Mac, but her solo career – with the exception of Rooms On Fire – has seldom matched her promise.

New collaborator guitarist and former Eurythmic-turned-producer Dave Stewart has now coaxed a fine performance from the 63-year-old hippy rock chick. He provides the music to her lyrics, some autobiographical in a Mac-like way. Their duet Cheaper Than Free is one of the best tracks.

There is a country influence on the soft rock balladry, an avenue that could be further explored. Tribute New Orleans is well-written but bland. The stark, folk-like Soldier's Angel is more effective. Highlights include the Californian pop of In Your Dreams, slow-burning sexy rocker Wide Sargasso Sea and the Kirsty MacColl-like bonus track My Heart.

Mac completists should note her bandmates Lindsey Buckingham and Mick Fleetwood contribute too.

Leon Burakowski

**Foster The People
- Torches**

INDIE-pop band Foster The People made a major splash with their single Pumped Up Kicks and their album offers more of the same light, indie fun with Helena Beats and Waste. The album is a definite listen for fans of MGMT and Black Kids but as the album progresses it moves towards lo-fi dance with Life on the Nickel and Miss You.

While the album is a summery, feel-good effort, it is hard to not start licking your lips at the prospect of what Foster The People could deliver on their 'difficult second album.' This is an excellent debut and a superb foundation to build on.

NEW ALBUMS


Stevie Nicks – her new album is a collaboration with Dave Stewart, formerly of The Eurythmics

Peggy Sue - Acrobats

THE second outing from Brighton-based indie-folk trio is a typically brooding affair. Cut My Teeth sets the scene perfectly but there are more grinding riffs and it twists from The XX to early Yeah Yeah Yeah's – an intriguing mix. By the time closers Shadows and There Always Was Echo from the speakers there's an feeling of reaching the end of a journey, with Parking Meter Blues and Boxes highlights along the way.

**Japanese Voyeurs
- York**

CLASSED as alternative metal but throughout York there are glints of all types of music, from grunge to pop, indie to metal, it's all in there.

The rest of the album fails

to live up to it, with Iris and Cassandra coming closest. As the pace picks up, the lyrics become more prominent. With hints of Laura Marling, the lyrics are the stand out aspect of this album, you may not be whistling the tunes but you will definitely be mulling over the meanings of each song.

**Kitty, Daisy & Lewis
- Smoking In Heaven**

A JOY of a summer album. Straight from the off, a mixture of reggae and soul means you can almost feel the warmth of Amy Winehouse was a fan.

Don't Make A Fool Of Me shows the rockabilly influences while Baby Don't You Know About Me explains why Amy Winehouse was a fan.

The schizophrenic effects of such a broad range of influences begins to take its toll, especially on What Quid?, a seven minute jazz instrumental. The late Amy Winehouse's influence is wholly apparent throughout.

**S.C.U.M
- Again Into Eyes**

ART-ROCK quintet S.C.U.M have a mysterious, well-crafted sound. Thomas Cohen's vocals recall David Bowie and Interpol while electronic beats and crunching riffs provide the backdrop for this stunning debut. There are some truly euphoric moments hidden among the 10 tracks, most notably on Days Untrue. Lead single Amber Hands unveils a murkier underbelly to the album while Paris provides a heartfelt ballad.

Big Deal - Lights Out

THE latest boy/girl duo to unleash melodic indie-pop, Big Deal look set to make the niche their own. With a stripped back sound, beautiful double-edged vocals and brooding lyrics, Alice Costelloe and KC Underwood are a fresh sound. The chemistry between the pair is apparent on Chair and Swoon, while Homework is as pretty as it is stark.

Jon Pritchard

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Some of the homeware and garden furniture in stock at the new-look Wilkinson in Walsall's Quasar Centre

£50 vouchers for 10 lucky winners to spend in store

TO CELEBRATE the unveiling of a revamped Wilkinson store in the Quasar centre, Walsall, the home and garden retailer is offering 10 lucky Walsall Chronicle readers the chance to win £50-worth of vouchers to spend in store.

The Wilkinson store closed for refurbishment on August 3, and re-opened on August 4. Wilkinson's head of multi-channel, Simon Hathway, and store manager Carol Ballinger cut the ceremonial ribbon alongside special guests from Walsall Rugby Club, including the first team captain, Steve Halbert, and the director of rugby, Bob Harding.

A raffle for Wilkinson's charity of the year, Age UK, was hosted at the store and customers had the chance to win a hamper of Wilkinson "Back to School" essentials from the new seasonal range.

Wilkinson's has an extensive range of everyday essentials including, health & beauty, cleaning equipment, homewares and pick & mix, as well as affordable seasonal products such as sun cream and sunglasses.



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HOW TO ENTER

To enter the competition, simply answer the following question:

Where is the store located?

- Walsall Centre
- Quasar Centre
- Wilkinson Centre

Post your answer to WILKINSON COMPETITION, Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES. The closing date for entries is Thursday, August 25.

The winners will be picked at random and notified.

Terms and conditions:

- Only one entry per person
- Vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash
- Entry must also contain the contact name and address and a phone number
- The editor's decision is final.

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TECHNOLOGY

thechronicle

Get the cool DJ look with these candy-coloured cans

RADIOPAQ Duo headphones offer a stylish set of cans for £19.99, easily as fashionable looking as phones more than twice the price thanks to a metal-look finish and the plush feel of the leather-look cushions.

The plastic phones cover your ears and also have a padded adjustable headband. Each cup is able to be tilted, swivelled and folded flat. That gives them a cool DJ look and, as with most DJ headphones, sound-wise they're a little heavy on the bass. A gold-plated 3.5mm connector provides optimal sound transfer from your source.

But this is a budget set of headphones, so provided you are not expecting super quality sound and are happy with just a decent, good-looking pair of cans, then these will do nicely. They also come in a nice range of four vibrant colours, high gloss copper, candy green, candy purple and metallic silver, plus good old fashioned black.

The Duo are available in store at Carphone Warehouse, ASDA, Argos, WHSmith and online at the www.radiopaqproducts.com website.



Expensive look but a budget price for the Radiopaq Duo headphones available for £19.99

Device to combat pain



Painfree – an electromagnetic device for combat pain

PAINFREE is a rechargeable, totally portable gadget to deal with aches and pains.

Unlike a Tens machine which works by electrical nerve stimulation, this lightweight and sleek oval device uses electromagnetic technology which makers Snowden say is clinically-proven. Apparently this drug-free pain solution works by pulsing electromagnetic fields.

I was a little sceptical but it did have an instant impact on my back pain, reducing discomfort when placed near the area that hurt. However, the pain quickly returned after the device was moved away.

Used for longer periods the therapeutic effect works by releasing endorphins and serotonin to help the problem area, say Snowden.

Lanyard

They claim it works as long as it is within 12 inches of the body, so some users choose to wear it on a lanyard around their neck and Snowden say it can give relief in more than one area at once. It has high and low settings.

I did not use the device for long enough to give an opinion on this but using it for short periods I could feel some relief, though the device was certainly not as effective for me as prescribed painkillers. However, those determined to take a drug-free approach to fighting pain and who are prepared to pay £85.95 for the Painfree device, can find out more at www.snowdenhealthcare.com or by calling 08700 771 772.

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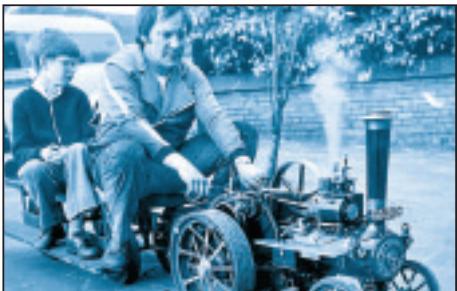
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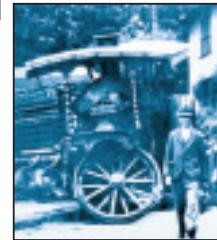
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Len takes a closer look at the engine



Lessons in steam ... back in the 1970s when Len took one of his model engines on a visit to a school in Dudley



Jane and Len Crane with their lovingly restored 1902 Burrell Patent Engine and, inset, the same machine after an accident in 1939

A-traction for steam proves winning way

Len Crane was just a boy of 11 when his passion for steam engines was sparked.

"They say as you get older your toys get bigger," smiled the 78-year-old, who with wife Jane has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award recognising their contribution to the repair and preservation of engines.

The Wolverhampton couple met in 1953 through a mutual love of motorcycle racing and for 30 years, owned their own business, Leonard Crane Transport Ltd, in Tividale.

Mr Crane, who hails from Lanesfield, became interested in steam engines at 11 when he started building model steam engines. He is perhaps best known as the former chief engineer of the Bratch pumping station in Wombourne.

Celebrate

Even since his retirement in 2001 Mr Crane has continued to host open days at the attraction, welcoming hundreds of people from all over the country to view the engines he has lovingly restored.

It was his turn to travel when he and his wife, who celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary this year, went to Trinity House in London where they were awarded the Transport Trust award by Prince



Michael of Kent. Speaking about the award, Mr Crane said he was delighted his wife - so for so long a supportive presence on the sidelines - had been recognised.

"It was marvellous. Usually I win cups and trophies but it's always me who receives them, with Jane in the background," he said. "All of a sudden though, we receive a letter in April from the Transport Trust for a joint award."

Mrs Crane added: "We were so honoured. Prince Michael was absolutely charming and spoke to each of the award winners individually, about his own personal experiences on a steam boat. It's just so nice to receive the award - tea and rock buns are usually my recognised speciality."

Sixty-seven years since he set out to make his first model, Mr Crane has restored five engines, some of them weighing up to 400 tons and worth £250,000.

The couple can be found most nights at their yard in Wombourne, working on the engines.

For eight years, however, the only space available was an opening behind their garden hedge, working in what Mrs Crane described as "very inclement weather".

Fortunately, a corner of a unit in Wombourne was offered to them by personal friend John Wootton, who also organises the steam section of the West Park Show.

Mrs Crane continued: "I usually join Len in the afternoon in the yard to help, and we

can be there until 9 or 10 some evenings."

Mr Crane has just completed nine years' work renovating Endurance, a 1902 Burrell Patent Engine that he found in Dorset. With his wife, he stripped it down and rebuilt it. It has been displayed at Wolverhampton's West Park, the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, since then as well as last weekend's Walsall Town Show.

Mr Crane has, alongside his lifetime's work on steam engines, also won the Motocross British Championship twice.

He had just returned from two years' National Service with the Royal Engineers on the day of a motocross race. A 14-year-old Jane happened to stroll by as he was preparing, and offered to help.

Incredible

One date to the pictures, and 57 years of marriage later, they have one daughter and are still working to rebuild incredible feats of engineering.

His completed 1915 Marshall Steam roller was presented, adorned in ribbons, to his wife for her 50th birthday. In 2010 daughter Brigitte rode to her wedding on a huge 1928 Fowler Crane belonging to her father.

The classic vehicle is affectionately known by locals as the Wolverhampton Wanderer.

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Seal of approval for leading window firm

DESPITE the shrinking economy, one local company has grown to become one of the leading manufacturers of uPVC windows, doors and conservatories in the West Midlands.

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Family-run

The company is a family-run business with two brothers, David and Richard Carter, at the helm.

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L-r: Sally Wynne, sales, Cathy Davidson, accounts, Adrian Jackson, director, Zoe Carter, reception, Jane Carter, ops manager



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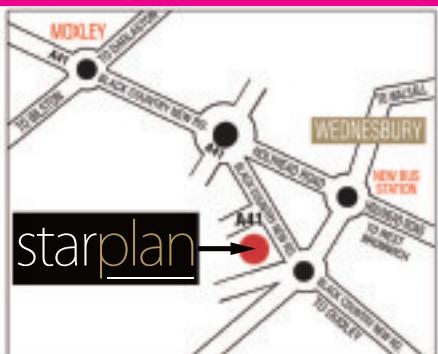
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REVIEWS

No strings attached

PINOCCHIO, the classic story of a puppet's quest to become a real boy, heads to The Public in West Bromwich on Friday, August 19.

Presented by Cube Theatre, the new adaptation by Ben Oldfield brings to life the captivating tale of the wooden puppet as he falls in with

an assortment of colourful characters who try to lead him astray.

Family

The magical production is all for the family, particularly suitable for children aged from 4 to 11.

After the show, children will have an opportunity to meet the puppets.

The play will be performed at 2.30 and 4.30pm.

To watch a trailer of the production visit the website at www.thepublic.com.

Tickets are £6 adults, £4 children, a family ticket (one adult and two children) is £12. Call 0121 533 7161 for details.



Bottom is the tops

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

If you only go to one Shakespeare production in Stratford-upon-Avon this year, go to see A Midsummer Night's Dream.

There are several excellent productions in the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2011 repertoire but for sheer unabashed entertainment, director Nancy Meckler's interpretation of the Dream is a feel-good delight.

The ancient Athens in which the play is set has a 1960s London gangster look, as if Shakespeare had collaborated with Guy Ritchie. The men wear sharp suits and some of the women have beehive hair-dos in the style of the late Amy Winehouse.

Most of the characters adopt broad London accents, which thankfully does away with that tired old conceit of making the tradesmen Brummies.

The look becomes more magical in a surreal dream-like way when the action moves to a forest created from suspended chairs and the fairies come out to play, with gorgeous lighting by Wolfgang Göbb and vampiric hissing from a 'Brides of Dracula' fairy trio who accompany the fairy queen Titania.

Doubling their roles as the Duke of Athens Theseus/fairy king Oberon and the duke's Amazon bride Hippolyta/Titania, Jo Stone-Fewings and Pippa Nixon make a passionate warning couple. There is something about Stone-Fewings, his perfect clipped diction, his casual yet authoritative air, that demands attention.

In contrast, Arsher Ali as the sprite Puck lacks charisma or that dangerous hint of meddling menace. The audience warms to him but he fails to make full use of his lanky frame. His casual Puck seems perfunctory.

At the core of the play are the two sets of lovers and how their affections are swopped by fairy magic. This causes utter confusion for poor put-upon Helena, who suspects all of mocking her. Bristling with energy, Lucy Briggs-Owen gives a break-out, brilliant performance, extremely funny and poignant (two parts Joyce Grenfell to one

part Vanessa Redgrave), as the long-limbed spurned lover who finds herself pursued by lovesick youths. As her former friend, the petite Hermia, Matti Houghton very much lives up to the description: "though she be but little, she is fierce".

Their male suitors, good as they are, are eclipsed by these frenetic females. Nathaniel Martello-White as Lysander sometimes warbles his lines like a soul singer to woo Hermia and Alex Hassell as Demetrius goes from dour to amazingly daff, as a kung fu posing buffoon who has strayed from the Scott Pilgrim movie.

Laughter

I doubt the new-look Royal Shakespeare Theatre has before been rocked so much laughter as when the "rude mechanics", here portrayed as a bunch of odd job men, put on their disastrous play within a play 'The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe'.

This is largely due to comic actor Marc Wootton, who memorably plays Nick Bottom as an over-bearing amateur thespian whose final performance is hammy than a side of bacon.

In his transformation into an ass, it is more his grotesque walk and ear-splitting hee-haw than the bad-hair-day donkey ears and swinging salami sausage between his legs that suggests his monstrous makeover by the mischievous Puck.

The performance lasts nearly three hours and the time flies by thanks to Meckler's crowd-pleasing production.

The Dream continues in repertoire at Stratford until November 5.

Leon Burakowski



Pippa Nixon as Titania and Marc Wootton as Bottom in the RSC's current version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stratford. Picture by Ellie Kurttz

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2 Days • 1 Night:

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The classic seaside resort of Scarborough has a great range of attractions including beautiful walks, a lake and excellent harbour and beautiful park. The Grand Hotel sits majestically overlooking the town. Features include a cabaret room with entertainment on all nights.

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Included excursions:

- Boston & Spalding
- Lincoln

5 Days • 4 Nights:

29 August from £199.95, 19 September from £189.95



Jersey • Norfolk Lodge Hotel

Jersey boasts miles of soft sandy beaches and secluded coves. The Norfolk Lodge Hotel has an indoor pool and is set in one of St. Helier's best residential areas.

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- Day 7 - Return home



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Brighton • Royal Albion Hotel

The Regency resort of Brighton has a unique atmosphere. There are a wide range of antique shops, selection of good restaurants and a lovely sea front. We stay at the Royal Albion Hotel. The beautiful style building stands directly opposite the pier.

Included excursions:

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- Lewes

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Isle of Wight • Shanklin

Shanklin boasts a long sandy beach which lies at the foot of spectacular cliffs. We stay at the Langham Court Hotel. This is set minutes from the sea front.

Included excursions:

- Half day visit to Godshill
- Full day tour of the Island's coastline

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5 Days • 4 Nights:

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Glastonbury Hotel - located on Royal Parade: 29 September from £179.95



Northumbria

Northumbria is a rich and diverse region with a long, illustrious heritage. It is a land of mighty castles, pretty villages and historic market towns.

The Windsor Hotel is centrally situated on South Parade at Whitley Bay.

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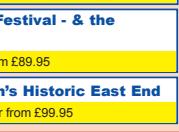


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Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £30pp

5 Days • 4 Nights: 05 Sept & 10 October from £199.95

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See the world's most enchanting city and discover the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and Arc de Triomphe.

On day 2 an optional Paris excursion taking in the main sights and on day 3 a visit to Versailles.



3 Days • 2 Nights: 18 September, 21 October, 11 November from £129.95

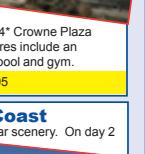
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09 September & 14 October from £169.95

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Enjoy a weekend break combining a visit to central Antwerp - an international port and leading fashion city. There is a great selection of bars, cafes and restaurants. On day 3 you will visit beautiful Ghent famous for its culture and beautiful old buildings. A guided tour is included.



3 Days • 2 Nights: 07 October from £99.95

Sorrento & the Amalfi Coast

Admire some of Europe's most spectacular scenery. On day 2 we visit the Lake Garda area.

On day 3 we travel through Tuscany to the Sorrento Peninsula area and stay for 5 nights at a 3* hotel on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.



On day 4 you can join our optional visit to Capri, with included guided tour by mini bus - £99.95 pp

On day 5 we have included a tour along the Amalfi Coast - one of the most spectacular coastlines in Europe. We take in Amalfi and Ravello.

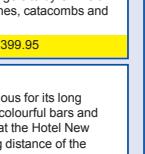
On day 6 you can join our optional visit to Pompeii and Vesuvius - £39.95 per person

On day 7 you can join our optional visit to the city of Naples. The city has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. See the narrow streets, mysterious churches, catacombs and caves - £19.95 per person.

10 Days • 9 Nights: 30 September from £399.95

Ostend's Golden Coast

The bright seaside resort of Ostend is famous for its long stretch of golden beach, vibrant night life, colourful bars and cafes and sea food restaurants. We stay at the Hotel New Astoria. This is well located within walking distance of the centre and beach.



Included excursions:

- Dutch border town of Sluis & Bruges
- Amsterdam

5 Days • 4 Nights: 22 August from £199.95

Ostend Free Bar Breaks

Free Bar from 20.30 hrs until midnight

Optional excursions:

- Sluis - £9.95 per person
- Amsterdam - £19.95 per person

4 Days • 3 Nights: 26 August & 21 October from £199.95

Prague - city of 100 Spires • 4* Hotel Duo

- with included guided tour of Prague

8 Days • 7 Nights:

17 September from £299.95



11, 18 24 November

from £159.95
from £169.95

02, 09, 15 December

from £159.95
from £169.95

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Disney 2012 departures NOW AVAILABLE

Subject to availability

snappers claim to frame



Fields in Pelsall, from Diane Brookes



Two photographs taken by Richard Stevens from the cycle path which runs between Station Road, Rushall, and Clayhanger Lane, Brownhills



A juvenile buzzard in Walsall Arboretum Extension, from Roger Jones

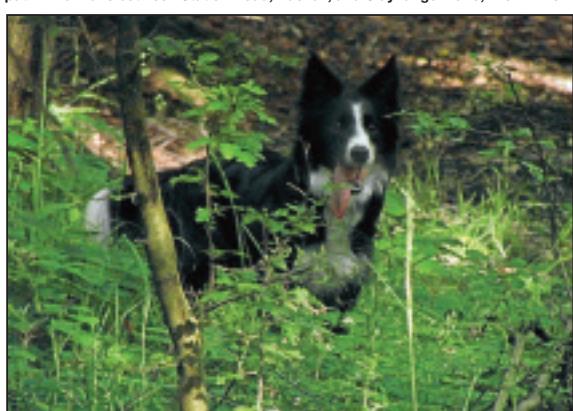
Pictures of life in the borough

ARE you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures? If you can, why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject – all we ask is that photos be as sharp and clear as possible and of reasonable quality for publication, featuring some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send photos in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

We would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and email them to walsalchronicle@expresssandstar.co.uk or send them by post to **Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES.**



Sarah Yeomans' dog Lucy enjoys her walk in Lime Lane, Pelsall

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Do You Value 'Word of Mouth'?

You already know that asking friends is the best way to find great restaurants, dentists, hairdressers and anything local.

Well, here at thebestofwalsall, word of mouth just got louder! Every business that is featured on our site has been visited and checked out by us and recommended by other local people, so you can use them with confidence knowing that they truly are one of the best at what they do.

Our website is regularly viewed by tens of thousands of local people each month as it contains all people need to find locally. This includes the most recommended businesses in Walsall, testimonials from local people, money savings offers, events, and information about what is going on in Walsall.

Below are just a few of our recommended businesses. To find out more about them and other local gems visit www.thebestof.co.uk/walsall

As recommended on

thebestofwalsall

www.thebestof.co.uk/walsall



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**Brian Foster and Co
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'Totally reliable, conducting business with the utmost integrity'
Mr G

BATHROOMS & ACCESSORIES



**New Trends Bathrooms
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Walsall WS2 8EJ
01922 630400**

'Superb bathroom suite and accessories and excellent fitters'
Brenda G

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**Redmayne Bentley
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Wolverhampton WV1 4QP
01902 219252**

'Explains things in an understandable way'
S M

GARAGE / MOT TESTING



**Stan Reynolds Garage
Mill Street, Walsall WS2 8AN
01922 623545**

'Friendly, reliable, honest, highly skilled and value for money service'
Robert H

BLINDS



**STH Blinds
Unit 10-15 Reaymer Close,
Bloxwich, Walsall
0845 6435161**

'Fantastic choice of fabrics and very well fitted blinds.
Very impressed' Emma B

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St Paul's, Darwall Street,
Walsall WS1 1DA
01922 633073**

'Fantastic choice of unusual gifts to suit all ages and for all occasions' Mrs P

MEDIUM / PSYCHIC



**MysticKaz
01902 632110**

'Very impressed with how accurate she was - brilliant.'
Leanne C

CATERING / SANDWICH SHOP



**Simply Sandwich
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01922 642777**

'The buffets are brilliant. Fresh food. Fine service. Fast delivery'
Clara B

SLIMMING CLASSES



**Slim 4 Good
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07707 530822**

'Friendly, informative group, easy to follow and very encouraging leader'
Julie T

TANNING & BEAUTY



**Tan Med Ltd
30/32 Portland Road,
Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8PZ
01922 451073 / 01922 452854**

'Staff are really friendly and helpful. The salon is always immaculate' Michelle C

HEALTH & BEAUTY



**Walsall Mind and Body Centre,
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01922 649142**

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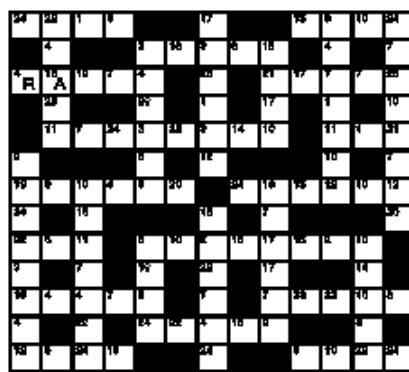
www.bowjanglesmidlands.co.uk

Brain Gym

No.130

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

V	L	H	S	Y	K	F	R	Z	M	T	P	E	A
N	P	W	G	D	X	B	I	C	Q	T	U	J	

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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

The letter
represented by
the question
mark is
O



ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!



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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD
QUICK CROSSWORD
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLE WORD SEARCH NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Hill split by flood (7)
- 2. Come to a hill (6)
- 3. Impressions left by the dead (7)
- 4. A cold or a cold, perhaps (8)
- 5. Relatives might make a scene about one (8)
- 6. Maximum charge for conveyance (4,4)
- 7. Possibly it's Bill's housekeeping virtue (8)
- 8. Inexperienced animal swallows everything (8)
- 9. Possibly clear about one's own code (8)
- 10. How a monk will occupy a building? (7)
- 11. Threaten a devil with something that (6)
- 12. Wind resulting from unsettled weather (7)

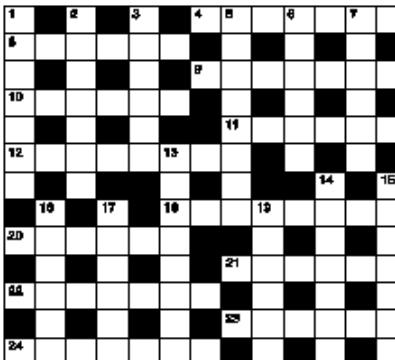
Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Adage (7)
- 2. Harmony (8)
- 3. Virtuous (7)
- 4. Summary (6)
- 5. Stable (6)
- 6. Disturb (5,3)
- 7. Goodbye (8)
- 8. Stomaching disgust (6)
- 9. Colonise (6)
- 10. Even now (7)
- 11. Careless (6)
- 12. Moment (7)

Down

- 1. Says it made contact (7)
- 2. Revolutionary type of public legislation (3,4)
- 3. Necissitate being in late, perhaps (8)
- 4. Put out, away, and finished (8)
- 5. Showed signs of dizziness, so wound up? (8)
- 6. Low down advice to the meek and callow (8)
- 7. More important in a matter of some gravity? (8)
- 8. Put off by act that included a song (7)
- 9. A good skip across (7)
- 10. Prohibitionists standard? (6)
- 11. A hairy cloth (6)
- 12. Means come first (6)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1. Billing sheet, 10. Anarchist, 11. Sailor, 13. Pavement, 14. Officer, 16. Silver, 18. Elbow, 19. Lure, 20. Ward (part), 21. Sun, 22. Headlines, 23. Oval, 24. Pipe, 25. Novel, 26. System, 27. Survival, 28. Ultraviolet, 29. Come to terms, 30. United front, 32. Devil's bone, 35. Earth (part), 37. Sesame, 38. Laundry, 39. Box, 40. GLADLY - Across: 1. Anarchist, 2. Astro, 3. Starlet, 4. Star, 5. Star, 6. Star, 7. Star, 8. Star, 9. Star, 10. Star, 11. Star, 12. Star, 13. Star, 14. Star, 15. Star, 16. Star, 17. Star, 18. Star, 19. Star, 20. Star, 21. Star, 22. Star, 23. Star, 24. Star, 25. Star, 26. Star, 27. Star, 28. Star, 29. Star, 30. Star, 31. Star, 32. Star, 33. Star, 34. Star, 35. Star, 36. Star, 37. Star, 38. Star, 39. Star, 40. Star, 41. Star, 42. Star, 43. Star, 44. Star, 45. Star, 46. Star, 47. Star, 48. Star, 49. Star, 50. Star, 51. Star, 52. Star, 53. Star, 54. Star, 55. Star, 56. Star, 57. Star, 58. Star, 59. Star, 60. Star, 61. Star, 62. Star, 63. Star, 64. Star, 65. Star, 66. Star, 67. Star, 68. Star, 69. Star, 70. Star, 71. Star, 72. Star, 73. Star, 74. Star, 75. Star, 76. Star, 77. Star, 78. Star, 79. Star, 80. Star, 81. Star, 82. Star, 83. Star, 84. Star, 85. Star, 86. Star, 87. Star, 88. Star, 89. Star, 90. Star, 91. Star, 92. Star, 93. Star, 94. Star, 95. Star, 96. Star, 97. Star, 98. Star, 99. Star, 100. Star.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
Sudoku

5			9				6	8
	8					9	5	
1		4		3	2	0		
8	3		6					
	6	5	1			8		
2	4							
	8	9	9			5		
5	3			7		9		

making tomorrow better together

Have Your Say

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (DWMHPT) is working to become an NHS Foundation Trust. Becoming a Foundation Trust will enable us to:

- Involve you in the running of your local mental health services
- Respond more flexibly to the needs of our communities
- Improve the quality of our services
- Be accountable to our members
- Improve understanding and awareness of mental health issues

As part of the application process, we will be consulting with you between August and October 2011. During this 12 week consultation, service users, carers, our staff and members of the public are encouraged to comment on any aspect of our services or proposals, such as:

- Proposals for our new name as a Foundation Trust
- Our plans and priorities as a Foundation Trust

We will be explaining our plans, listening to your opinions and answering questions through a variety of activities and hope you will join us at one of our public consultation meetings (see opposite) to learn more about the Trust and give us your views. We look forward to seeing you there.



Gary Graham
Chief Executive



Glyn Shaw
Chairman

www.dwmh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust

foundation trust

Consultation Meetings



Next Consultation Meeting

Walsall

Venue: Holiday Inn Express (J10, M6), Tempus Ten, Tempus Drive, Walsall, WS2 8RL
Date: Tuesday 6 September
Time: 2.30 - 4.30pm

Light refreshments will be provided.

Dudley and Walsall **NHS**
Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Home of Property

connecting people with property homeofproperty.co.uk

The top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Bloxwich



The kitchen has wall and base units, and an integral electric oven and a gas hob



There is a large rear garden to the rear of the property in Gloucester Avenue

Four-bedroom home for rent at £1,000 a month

THIS property in the affluent area of Brookhouse in Walsall combines modern living with traditional internal features, and is available to rent for £1,000 a month.

The 1960-built impressive four-bedroom detached property is on Gloucester Avenue, and benefits from a double garage, driveway for three or more cars and large rear garden.

Double

It has a large tiled hallway, downstairs shower room, storage, two reception rooms with connecting double doors, access to garage, fitted kitchen/diner with small breakfast bar.

The large reception room has a brick feature fireplace and traditional ceiling beams.

Upstairs are three double bedrooms – one with en suite bathroom – one single bedroom and a family bathroom with corner bath and twin basins.

Call WLI.UK.COM on 0121 525 9090 or visit at weloveyourpostcode.co.uk



The four-bedromed property in the affluent Brookhouse area of Walsall has parking space for up to three cars

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Poplar Avenue, Bentley, Walsall
Walsall



Three bed end terraced. Entrance, Porch, Guest WC, Lounge, Kitchen & Conservatory.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,995
Viewing: 01902 633323

Dewent Close, Kingfisher Estate,
Willenhall



Well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house occupying a corner position on this sought after development. Benefiting from gas central heating, upvc double glazing, conservatory, 23ft lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, front & rear gardens, garage & 4 car drives.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Dillways Lane, Willenhall
Willenhall



Three bedroom semi with gas central heating & double glazing. Convenient for Bilston & Willenhall, accommodation comprises porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, rear porch, 3 beds, bathroom/wc, front & rear gardens, single garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £97,500
Viewing: 01902 633323

Broad Lane, Essington
Essington



• MUST BE VIEWED • A good sized detached bungalow on a nice sized plot having the benefit of south facing location, double glazing and gas central heating. This splendid property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen/dine 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, etc. etc. front and rear gardens, block paved driveway to several vehicles and garage. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE
OFFERS AROUND: £229,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Quilter Close, Bentley, Walsall
Walsall



Ideal 1st Purchase - 3 bedroom terrace house, no upward chain, upvc double glazing, central heating, entrance porch, hall, guest wc, lounge, fitted kitchen, diner, upvc conservatory, bathroom, front & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Whitminster Close, Willenhall
Willenhall



• MUST BE VIEWED • A well presented 2 bedroom end terraced property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, double glazed windows and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and off road parking spaces to rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £124,950
Viewing: 01902 633323



• MUST BE VIEWED • A well presented 2 bedroom end terraced property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, double glazed windows and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and off road parking spaces to rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £124,950
Viewing: 01902 633323



The Property
Ombudsman
SALES
Approved code

The Property
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Temple Road, Willenhall
Willenhall



•••IDEAL INVESTMENT OR 1ST PURCHASE••• 2 bedroom first floor flat benefiting from upvc double glazing & gas central heating (where specified) and offering no upward chain. Further comprising, entrance, landing, lounge, kitchen & bathroom.
OFFERS AROUND: £52,500
Viewing: 01902 633323

Chaucer Avenue, Willenhall
Willenhall



Deceptively spacious modern semi-detached, 3 good bedrooms, central heating, double glazing, reception hall, guest wc, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with integral appliances, family bathroom, shower room, 3 piece amp; rear garden with decked patio.
OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Chaucer Avenue, Willenhall
Willenhall



50% SHARED OWNERSHIP Deceptively spacious modern semi-detached, 3 good bedrooms, central heating, double glazing, reception hall, guest wc, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with integral appliances, family bathroom, shower room, 3 piece amp; rear garden with decked patio.
OFFERS AROUND: £62,500
Viewing: 01902 633323

Great Bridge Road, Bilston
Bilston



A modern 2 bedroom end of terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, electric heating and no upward chain. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord the property further comprises, reception hall, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, en-suite, rear garden and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £70,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Uplands Avenue, Willenhall
Willenhall



3 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW, benefiting from central heating, partial double glazing & no upward chain. Further comprising entrance porch, hall, lounge, utility room, veranda, garage, garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Hawthorne Place, Bentley, Walsall
Walsall



EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED NO UPWARD CHAIN. SECURE PARKING, DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING (as specified). CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION. 2 double bedrooms, newly fitted kitchen, 17ft through lounge, sitting room, dining room, bathroom, downstairs wc, front & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Princethorpe Road, Scholars Heath,
Willenhall



Modern detached house, 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite & fitted wardrobes, central heating, double glazing, 15ft conservatory, 18ft lounge, fitted kitchen, hall, guest wc, family bathroom, internal garage, front & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £174,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Princethorpe Road, West Mids
West Mids



A four bedroom modern detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, guest WC, fitted kitchen/diner with utility area, lounge, family bathroom, 4 bedrooms, master with ensuite, rear garden, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £194,995
Viewing: 01902 633323

Sneyd Lane, Essington
Essington



• WELL PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE • RECENTLY REFURBED AFTER LOCATION WITH 30' FT RACING MAPLE GARAGE, central heating, double glazing, 24ft x 12ft rear breakfast kitchen, extended dining room, 22ft master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, 2 further bedrooms, fitted bathroom, driveway w/c entrance porch, 3 bed & 2 bath & 2 car drive to garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £234,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Dillways Lane, Willenhall
Willenhall



Extended & much improved 3 bedroom semi-detached benefiting from central heating & double glazing, half 25ft through lounge, 13ft dining room, fitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, double garage & rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE
OFFERS AROUND: £128,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Glebe Road, Willenhall
Willenhall



Well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house benefiting from gas central heating & majority upvc double glazing. Further comprising reception hall, 25ft through lounge, extended fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, front & rear gardens, garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

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Hopyard Road, Bentley, Walsall
Walsall



A 3 bedroom semi detached having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen / diner, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite, rear garden and driveway to front.
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

NEW

Fenmore Close, Park Hall, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton



* * * NEW CLOTHESMAKERS ROAD * * * STAIR LANDING * * * • Well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This spacious family home is located in a quiet cul-de-sac. It benefits from a large living room, open plan kitchen/diner, separate utility room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE
OFFERS AROUND: £169,995
Viewing: 01902 633323

Gosport Close, Stowheath, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton



Modern semi-detached BUNGALOW, NO CHAIN, 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, deceptively spacious brand new apartments having the benefit of UPVC double and triple glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This property is larger than average and is a great buy. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen / diner, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite, rear garden and allocated parking spaces.
OFFERS AROUND: £117,500
Viewing: 01902 633323

Hyett Way, Bilston
Bilston



• A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
• Gas Central Heating (Recently re-fitted Boiler)
• UPVC Double Glazing
• Ideal First Purchase or Rental Investment
OFFERS AROUND: £84,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Sandwell Avenue, Wednesbury
NEW



• Extended Semi- Detached House
• Two Double Bedrooms
• Two Car Drive
• No Upward Chain
OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Dillways Lane, Willenhall
Willenhall



A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This improved property briefly comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious through lounge, 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite, rear garden and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing: 01902 633323

Elm Avenue, Bilston
Bilston



An individual period 2 bedroom detached house benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and intruder alarm. Further comprising reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, dining room, archway to fitted kitchen with oven & hob, three bedrooms, integral garage (not shown), family bathroom, fitted cupboards, two car drive and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 01902 633323

Bradley Lane, Bradley,
Bilston



• A Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• A Short Walk from Midland Metro
• Double Glazed (as specified)
• No Upward Chain
OFFERS AROUND: £109,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Stanley Road, Wednesbury
NEW



• 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing
• Located at Foot of Cul-de-Sac Location
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £84,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Lodge Road,
Darlaston



• An Extended 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• No Upward Chain
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £87,500
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

VIRTUAL TOURS



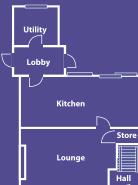
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7 Queens Parade
Bloxwich
Walsall
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01922 711444

**Fishley Close****Bloxwich**

- Five Bedroom Detached
- Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Utility
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Driveway

Offers in the Region of £229,950

**Victoria Avenue****Bloxwich**

- Newly built Three Bedroom Houses
- Fitted Kitchen including appliances
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Block Paved Driveway
- Integral Garage

In the Region of £179,950

**Albany Grove****Essington**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Carport & Garage
- Driveway

Offers in excess of £205,000

**Revival Street****Bloxwich**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge / Diner
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Central Heating
- En-suite
- Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in the Region of £199,950

**Stoney Lane**
Bloxwich

- Traditional Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended to Rear
- Extensive Mature Rear Garden
- Garage & Ample Driveway
- Parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

In the Region of £179,950

**Stoney Lane****Bloxwich**

- Four Bed Detached
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- En-suite Bedroom
- Large Driveway
- Garage
- Landscaped Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £210,000

**Old Hall Court**
Aldridge

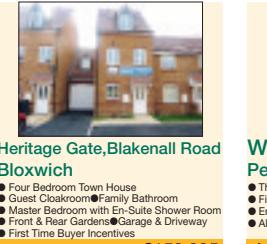
- Farmhouse courtyard location
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms, Exposed Beams
- Electric security entry gate
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Feature stone fireplace
- Master bedroom with En-suite shower room

Offers in excess of £165,000

**Revival Street**
Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway

Offers in the Region of £164,950

**Heritage Gate, Blakenall Road**
Bloxwich

- Four Bedroom Town House
- Guest Cloakroom
- Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway
- First Time Buyer Incentives

£159,995

**Windrush Close**
Pelsall

- Three Storey Three Bed Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Separate Garage
- Allocated parking
- Enclosed Rear Garden

In the Region of £147,950

**Harness Close****Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
- Lounge/Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- NO CHAIN

£144,950

**Pool Hayes Lane**
Walsall

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Garage
- Driveway

Offers in excess of £140,000

**Revival Street****Bloxwich**

- Two Bedroom House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway

£139,950

**Parkview Crescent****Walsall**

- Three Bed-Room Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Diner
- Block Paved Driveway
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Detached Garage

Offers in excess of £128,000

**Field Road**
Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- New Build 10 year warranty
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- En-Suite
- Bathroom
- Integral Garage
- Rear Garden

In the Region of £124,950

**Stoney Lane****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage

In the Region of £124,950

**Sandbank****Bloxwich**

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Receptions Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite
- Period Features
- Off-Road Parking

In the Region of £199,950

**Mulberry Road****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £114,950

**Hollands Road****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Utility Room
- First Floor Family Bathroom
- Loft Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off-Road Parking

Offers in excess of £90,000

**Heritance Gate, Blakenall Road****Bloxwich**

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner & Kitchen
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty
- First Time Buyer Incentives

£84,995

**Romsey Way****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Entrance Hall
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom Separate W.C.
- Rear Garden
- Off-Road Parking

In the Region of £84,950

**Walkers Fold****Willenhall**

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Rear Garden
- Two Parking Spaces
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £104,950

**Dartmouth Close****Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Separate WC
- Detached Garage to Rear
- Gardens
- NO CHAIN

In the Region of £97,500

**Archer Road****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off-Road Parking

Offers in excess of £95,000

**Blakenall Lane****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £75,000

**Beatrice Street****Bloxwich**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £69,950

**Argyll Court, Essington Road****Willenhall**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Communal Grounds
- Secure Allocated Parking

In the Region of £69,950

**Station Street****Bloxwich**

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Entrance Hall
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- Communal Gardens
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

In the Region of £65,000

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LAWNSIDE GREEN, BILSTON

- Three Bedrooomed Semi-Detached
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- In need of some upgrading

OFFERS £79,950



COTSWOLD GROVE, COPPIE FARM, WILLENHALL

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- Communal parking

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SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON

- Three bedrooomed detached
- Potential for extension and improvement
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted bathroom
- Large front, rear and side gardens
- Double garage

REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE OFFERS £289,950



GREENHILL CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Link detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Popular area close to Summer Hayes
- Central heating and double glazing
- Garage
- Gardens front and rear

OFFERS £139,950



ROSEWOOD DRIVE,COPPIE FARM

- Two Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain

OFFERS £107,500



RUDGE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom and Separate W.C.
- Must be Viewed

OFFERS £107,500



HODSON AVENUE, WILLENHALL.

- Semi-Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Large Rear Garden

OFFERS £105,000



CECIL STREET, WALSALL

- ★ Terrace House
- ★ Lounge & Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Bathroom
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Rear Garden
- ★ Part DG & GCH

£425pcm



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

- ★ End Terrace House
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Dining Room
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Bathroom

£425pcm



PARK AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS

- ★ Traditional Semi
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen/ Dining Room
- ★ Lounge & Bathroom
- ★ Gardens & Parking
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£445pcm



GRAND JUNCTION WAY, TAMEBRIDGE

- ★ Two bedroom end townhouse
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen/Breakfast room
- ★ GCH/DG
- ★ Gardens & allocated parking
- ★ No DSS, No Children, No Pets, No Smokers

£450pcm



LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL

- ★ Terraced Property
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen(Some Appliances)
- ★ Driveway
- ★ Conservatory
- ★ GCH & DG

£465pcm



FERNLEIGH ROAD, WALSALL

- ★ First Floor Flat
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Fitted Kitchen
- ★ UPVC DG
- ★ Electric Under Floor Heating
- ★ Shower Room

£475pcm



WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

- ★ End Terrace House
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Bathroom & En-suite
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Off road parking

£510pcm



COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON, WEDNESBURY

- ★ Fully Refurbished
- ★ Mid Terrace Property
- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Luxury Bathroom
- ★ Newly Fitted Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



BROADWAY NORTH, WALSALL

- ★ Extended Detached Property
- ★ Four/Five Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge/Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Sitting Room
- ★ Bathroom & En-Suite
- ★ Driveway & Rear Garden

£950pcm



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**WILLENHALL****CRAE LANE**

- Detached style link detached bungalow
- Two reception rooms
- Popular and much requested location
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

£178,000 offers, no chain

**SUMMER HAYES, WILLENHALL****EDINBURGH DRIVE**

- Detached property extended semi detached bungalow
- Double glazing throughout
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Private established rear garden
- 20ft side garage
- Private established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

£169,950 offers

**WILLENHALL****BILSTON ROAD**

- Superbly spacious extended semi detached traditional style detached bungalow
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Extended rear garden with patio area
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Private established rear garden
- Garage and ample off road parking
- C/ds pos
- C/ds pos
- C/ds pos
- C/ds pos

£225,000 offers

**SHORTHEATH****BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH**

- Considerably improved traditional style detached bungalow
- UPVC double glazed sun room / conservatory
- Superbly extended living room with double aspect
- Large refitted rear bathroom with separate shower
- Gas condensing central heating system
- Double glazing throughout
- Two bedrooms
- En suite bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Internal viewing recommended

£210,000 OFFERS NO CHAIN

**COPPIE FARM****BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Extended modern style town house
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- Two double bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Private established rear garden
- No shared chain

£152,500 OFFERS

**WILLENHALL****LISTER STREET**

- Modern style semi detached property
- Shower room
- Two double bedrooms and principal bathroom
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Garage and driveway
- Double glazing
- No shared chain

£129,950 OFFERS NO CHAIN

**ESSINGTON****THIRLmere DRIVE**

- Superbly presented modern style detached residence
- Overlooking Essington Pools
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Garage and Driveway

£325,000

**ESSINGTON****ROSEWOOD GARDENS**

- Splendidly appointed extended modern style detached residence
- Large refitted family bathroom with separate shower
- First floor bathroom
- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Garage and off road parking
- UPVC double glazed windows

£250,000 OFFERS VIEWING ESSENTIAL

**WILLENHALL****WAKES CLOSE**

- Much improved modern style town house
- Fitted kitchen with a range of appliances
- Double glazing
- Garage and off road parking
- UPVC double glazed windows
- No shared chain

£102,000 OFFERS

**SOLD STC IN 3 WEEKS****WILLENHALL****KINGFISHER COURT**

- Superb ground floor flat
- One bedroom
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

£69,950 OFFERS NO CHAIN VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**WILLENHALL****FISHER STREET**

- Pleasantly appointed and terrace property
- Convenient location near to Willenhall Town Centre
- Two double bedrooms
- Double glazing
- Ideal first time purchase

£84,950 OFFERS NO CHAIN

**NEW INVENTION****SANDRIDGE AVENUE**

- Well presented detached property
- Extensive rear garden with decked patio approx 200ft
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazing windows

£189,995 offers

**WILLENHALL****PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Modern style semi detached property
- 20ft through lounge
- Two storey side extension
- Three bedrooms
- Garage and off road parking
- Gas central heating

Was £142,000 Now £139,950



- Semi detached property situated in a popular location
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed windows
- Off road parking

Was £10,000 Now £104,950 No Chain

**DARLASTON****KING EDWARD STREET**

- Four bedroom semi detached style semi detached ground and first floor
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Extended rear garden to front & rear
- Internal viewing essential
- Gas central heating

Was £144,950 Now £137,500

**NEW INVENTION****CANNOCK ROAD**

- Splendidly appointed traditional style detached residence
- Spacious fitted dining kitchen
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- Double glazing

£199,950

**WILLENHALL****UPLANDS AVENUE**

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached bungalow
- Two reception rooms, lounge with open fire and dining room
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Was £139,995 Now £135,000

**NEW INVENTION****SANDLAND ROAD**

- Spacious four bedroom semi-detached property
- Double glazing windows
- Two reception rooms, lounge and dining room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing windows
- No chain

£114,995 - NO CHAIN

**ESSINGTON****WILLOW GROVE**

- Pleasantly appointed extended modern style detached family home
- Spacious 110 ft double glazed conservatory
- Popular Ecclesall village location
- Four excellent bedrooms, three with wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- En-suite shower
- Two reception rooms

£244,950

**WILLENHALL****CLARKES LANE**

- Surprisingly spacious much improved semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Spacious front porch
- Extended ground floor kitchen
- Double glazing windows
- Double glazing windows

£136,000

**WILLENHALL****SHEPHERD DRIVE**

- End town house style property close to Pool Hayes school
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Double garage & rear parking

£94,950

**WEDNESFIELD****KITCHEN LANE**

- Pleasantly appointed first floor maisonette overlooking local countryside
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Generous rear garden
- Internal viewing recommended

£74,950 OFFERS

**WILLENHALL****LONGWOOD**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Double glazing windows
- Two reception rooms, lounge and dining room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing windows
- Garden to the rear

£134,950 NO CHAIN

SUMMER SALE

Barnett Road, Willenhall Was £120,000 Now £117,000

Three Bedroom Semi Was £104,950 Now offers in excess of £99,950

Wolverson Close, Willenhall Was £62,000 Now £60,000

Two Bedroom Flat Was £194,950 Now £184,995

Four Bedroom Detached Was £152,950 Now £149,950

John Riley Drive, New Invention

Three Bedroom Detached Was £147,500 Now £142,500

Forrest Avenue, Essington

Three Bedroom Semi Was £134,950 Now £125,000

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PROPERTIES TO RENT

Leveson Street, Willenhall £425 PCM

Waite Road, Willenhall £475 PCM

Lower Prestwood Road, Wednesfield

Two Bed Town House £495 PCM

Dartmouth Avenue, Willenhall

Three Bedroom Town House £495 PCM

Nordley Road, Wednesfield

Three Bedroom Town House £495 PCM

Hopwood Lock Court, Willenhall

Two Bedroom Apartment £500 PCM

Vaughan Road, Willenhall

Three Bedroom End House £550 PCM

Stonehouse Avenue, Willenhall

Three Bedroom Detached Property £600 PCM

WILLENHALL NEWLANDS CLOSE

Planned first floor maisonette £67,950 NO CHAIN

Popular and convenient location

Cul-de-sac position

Two bedrooms

UPVC DG windows

Bathroom with shower

Garage in block to side

£67,950 NO CHAIN

CONTACT 01902 732324

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Willenhall 01902 631151

Wednesfield 01902 732324

Tipton 0121 520 2255

Wednesbury 0121 505 1818

Bilston 01902 353578

Sedgley 01902 686868





The detached property has three good-sized bedrooms, block-paved driveway and integral garage among its features

Modern home in quiet road for £199,950

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PEACEFULLY positioned, this enlarged three-bed detached home in South Staffordshire is handily placed for access to village schools, shopping and other amenities.

The property – 23 Cedars Avenue, Wombourne, near Wolverhampton, – has an open plan entrance hall, lounge and dining area, galley-style breakfast kitchen, three good bedrooms and bathroom with separate shower cubicle.

The entrance hall and

lounge of the property measures 26ft 2in by 12ft, opening out to a 12ft 1in by 8ft 1in dining area. The breakfast/kitchen room of the property has a range of light oak units comprising floor-based cupboard and drawer units, built-in oven with electric hob and wall cabinets.

Extensive

The house is for sale based on offers around £199,950. The house stands behind an extensive block-paved parking forecourt, and also has a garage.

Call estate agent Bartlam's on 01902 894141 for further information about 23 Cedars Avenue.



Number 23 Cedars Avenue, Wombourne, is a modern three-bedroom detached, situated in a quiet location

Redrow development at Oakwood Grange – Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, Staffordshire WS11 8JT

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Sean Davis, Redrow Home Owner



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Scan the barcode to link your mobile phone to our development at Oakwood Grange. For iPhone users please search 'Tag Reader' on the app store and download for free. Your mobile operator may charge for data usage so please ensure that you have the appropriate data plan. Redrow Homes have been awarded 5 star accredited national housebuilder in the Home Builders Federation Customer Satisfaction Survey. *Research conducted by Redrow Homes (July 2011). Images typical of Redrow homes. Prices and details correct at time of going to press.



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Free design service for a new bathroom



A look at a bathroom before the design work begins



First - log and ask The result - B&Q's plan

THE new Ask a Designer app on B&Q's Facebook page offers a free bathroom design service, with a detailed rundown of how to recreate the look you want within the space, budget and time available.

You simply submit pictures of your bathroom and include details of what you'd like to achieve. B&Q's team of experts will choose the rooms most in need of a makeover and then come up with a design to fit the brief.

There's also the chance to win £2,500 to spend on a new bathroom at B&Q.

And, from this month, the app will be available for kitchen makeovers as well.

Submit your pictures to B&Q's page at www.facebook.com

Bosch has launched a really useful cordless cutting tool for DIY and more the new and improved Xeo 2.

Easy to manoeuvre, because it's small and light, the Xeo 2's also super simple to use – just take off the safety catch, grip the rubberised handle and press the trigger.

It's brilliant for lightweight cutting tasks, such as cutting wallpaper ready for hanging, and it powers through carpet (up to 6mm thick) and vinyl flooring in seconds.

The blade's self-sharpening, there's a safety guard to protect your fingers, and it's easy to see where you're cutting, which isn't always the case with power tools.

The Xeo 2 comes in a handy storage tin and costs £39.99 from B&Q.

For more details, see the www.bosch-do-it.co.uk website.

Makeover for your decking

YOUR garden deck's out there in the elements all year round, so get the most out of it this summer by giving it some TLC.

Before you start work on it, stock up at a DIY store on decking treatment, methylated spirits, fungicidal wash, a stiff broom, protective gloves and goggles, and a quality wood-stain brush.

Some decking treatments come with their own applicator, so you don't need a brush. When you decide start work, begin by brushing off the decking with the broom

to get rid of any remaining dirt and debris.

Use the fungicidal wash to remove any algae and mould, then wash the decking with warm soapy water or a pressure washer. Then leave it to dry.

Once it's dry, wipe over with a cloth dampened in methylated spirits, and it's advisable to wear the gloves and goggles when doing this and when using the fungicidal wash.

For a step-by-step guide to sprucing up your decking, download the www.sadolin.co.uk/homeowner podcast.

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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

XF comes out fighting with new diesel engine

TALK about fighting with one hand tied behind your back. The smallest Jaguar saloon has spent its life so far without the engine most buyers wanted.

Now they can have it – and banish thoughts of BMWs and Audis to the other side of the company car park fence.

Say a big, warm hello to the Jaguar XF 2.2 litre diesel.

By Ian Donaldson

When the XF was launched in 2008 its subtle non-retro lines were a bit of a gamble for a company that traded for decades on hints of labrador and gentlemen's clubs.

The gamble paid off, with interest, and XFs are now a common sight on UK roads. Still worth a look as they pass, though.

Now, for 2011 comes an XF that's been

mildly refreshed on the outside, with smoother lights front and rear and a new dashboard, more switches and reprofiled seats inside.

Much more important, there's now the choice of a smaller diesel engine. It's quite closely related to the unit you'll find in some Mondeos but has been reworked for its role in a Jag and bolted to a new automatic gearbox with no fewer than eight forward speeds.

Priced from a competitive £30,950, it will also appeal to company car drivers who have to take notice of its tailpipe pollution if they're not to be stung by the taxman. Road tax at just £125 won't hurt either.

Jaguar thinks so many buyers will go for this smallest diesel that it will soon become the biggest seller in the range, so untiring that hand behind the corporate back and letting the Coventry cat take on the rivals from Germany at last.

The new gearbox and a stop/start system that cuts the engine when the car is stationary (and, unfortunately, with your foot on the brakes) help the 2.2 XF record impressive economy in the official test; with better than 52mpg.

A brisk drive on testing roads around Jaguar's Gaydon headquarters near Warwick left my car showing 39.5mpg on its trip computer. That's an impressive real world figure for a car that simply asks to be driven.

Forget about diesels sounding loud and rough and producing hardly enough power to drag the skin off a rice pudding. In the latest XF we have a 187bhp diesel with a genuine performance feel – and the need to keep an eye on the speedometer to avoid the collection of points.

But the XF has even deeper charms. Without needing complicated and expensive suspension, the Jaguar engineers have produced a car that feels light on its toes and eager to tackle the next bend. It made me smile after the first bend and the grin never left my face, it's that impressive.

A little less so is the new interior, which still lacks the lounging room you might hope for in the rear. The new instrument panel uses some touches of blue where

(the still unbeatable) white on black would have been easier to read.

At least there are now proper switches on the centre console below the big colour touchscreen to make choosing functions simpler; so sometimes more is less (confusing).

No complaints about the standard equipment, which includes xenon headlights, rear parking sensors and leather upholstery. Satellite navigation is a costly £2,050.

If you forget your new Jag is diesel-powered (not difficult), a petrol nozzle won't fit when you try to fill up. Clever, and potentially wallet saving.



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Two more Clios line up to join growing Gordini range

WEEKS after widening the Wind Roadster range to include an affordable 1.2-litre version, Renault has produced two extra Clios for the burgeoning Gordini line-up.

The Gordini range has proved a hit, and the Clio Gordini accounts for 27 per cent of overall Clio Renaultsport sales in Europe and over 10 per cent in the UK.

The latest incarnations of the Gordini badge debut in three-door form, with the petrol 1.6 VVT 128 and diesel 1.5 dCi 106.

They enable UK buyers to get the look and feel of the 200hp flagship Gordini, but with lower fuel consumption, emissions and running costs, including insurance. The petrol model welcomes the rev-loving engine from the former GT, itself slightly detuned from the Twingo Renaultsport 133. In the warmed over Clio, it gives performance of 0.62mph in 9.3 seconds, combined with 42.2mpg on the combined cycle. The Clio Gordini 128 costs £14,000 on-the-road.

The second version comes with the 1.5 dCi 106 and costs £14,950. Nippy thanks to compact dimensions and

lively performance, the newcomer is just at home on the open road as it is in town, thanks to its standard six-speed gearbox. It is capable of 62.8mpg on the combined cycle, or at the other end of the performance spectrum, 119mph. Emitting only 110g CO₂, it is free from road fund licence and costs only £20 in the second year.

Whichever engine buyers choose, each version retains the usual Gordini styling.

Stripes

On the outside, it sports twin white racing stripes across the bonnet, roof and tailgate, co-ordinating white electric folding door mirrors and front bumper strip, Gordini badges, 16-inch Turini alloy wheels, body colour rear spoiler and twin tailpipe exhausts.

Other external enhancements are body coloured side mouldings and door handles, extra tinted side and rear windows, front fog lights and fixed cornering lights.

On the inside, creature comforts abound. The Gordini touches begin with grey cloth upholstery with Gordini logo

(grey or blue leather are optional and blue cloth is a no-cost option), leather steering wheel with grey detail and white stripe, satin chrome-effect gearknob with blue Gordini badge and black surround with satin chrome lever. Other elements include gloss black detailing for the centre console, dash and air vent surrounds, and a white rev counter.

Both newcomers come highly equipped with a 4x20W radio CD with aux input and fingertip remote controls, auto lights and wipers, climate control, cruise control, front curtain airbags and speed limiter.

The two new versions can be upgraded with several options, including Carminat TomTom satellite navigation, multi-functional TunitPoint or electric panoramic sunroof.

Metallic paint comes in Malta Blue, Pearl Black and Ruby Red. The standard body colour, Glacier White, features contrasting anthracite grey Gordini racing stripes, door mirrors and front bumper insert.

More information is available at http://www.renault.co.uk/cars/model/ew_clio/gordini.aspx

Triumph puts a tank in the Tiger



SADLY I am of an age to remember when Triumph produced a 750cc Tiger.

By Bob Hickman

cylinder concept and the engine fitted to the Tiger was a little gem.

It was almost linear in its power production; with fuel injection, gone are the days of fiddling with chokes to get that initial start then a reliable tick-over.

It has a capacity of 799cc; and Triumph has not stifled the unique and wonderful sound of the three-cylinder with the exhaust set up.

It is said to produce 94bhp at 9,300 revs with a reasonable amount of torque at mid-range. Triumph suggests a top speed of 130mph should be achievable and the 4.2-gallon tank should give a range of about 200 miles.

Sports

The Tiger is a tall bike. I am just over six feet with long legs so for me it was perfect.

The sports screen fits in front of the instrumentation and at first I thought it was a bit gimmicky, but to my amazement 70mph cruising on the motorway showed that it worked.

The aerodynamic effect of hanging on to a high set of handlebars was diminished and it actually kept some of the rain off.

The bike is a very agile performer, beying the fact that it is an 800cc, and the weight distribution is perfect.

Performance from the first twist of the throttle all the way through the six gears is excellent.

Acceleration is very brisk, the gearbox is a delight and very easy to use. Clutchless changes could quite easily be made up or down the box.

One aspect of the derivative I rode was that it doesn't like off-road performing. Bennetts Lane runs by the A454 near the outskirts of Wolverhampton towards Pennsall.

It starts off very narrow, gets narrower with grass in the middle, then degenerates into a farm track, and the last quarter of a mile is a stream bed.

It is an education and difficult to ride. The pebbles had been polished so high, that the bike at times struggled to find grip and it was sideways as much as it was pointing forward. But it proved a point.

It is possible to tackle a "green lane" but you need to concentrate and show the bike who is boss.

With the tall seat configuration the smaller statured may struggle if they venture too far off-road. Having said that, it was just an exercise because Triumph is promoting this as a dual-purpose bike.

Handling on road was brilliant and the power belied how big this bike is.

It was almost like riding a small 250cc and the big wide bars were a bonus in town.

It is a bike Triumph should justifiably be proud of and BMW with the 800cc GS and Honda with the Transalp should be concerned.

Fuel consumption in the mid-40s is not to be scoffed at and the big fuel tank means no need to be paranoid about running out of fuel on the motorway.

My own bike is a 10-year old Pan European, so I am out of touch with what modern motor cycles now add as standard.

I was surprised to find the instrumentation on the Triumph comprised a digital speedometer with a conventional analogue tach, a clock and a digital display of gear selection - useful with a six-speed gearbox. Two trip displays, as in a car, are useful too.

Distance

It has an average speed, and fuel consumption display, a fuel gauge and, again copied from the car world, distance remaining with the amount of fuel on board.

These were all easy features and the buttons were sensible and simple to operate with gloves.

Triumph expects to sell at least 7,000 of these bikes worldwide.

I can't see any reason it shouldn't achieve that, because once you have ridden it you realise just how good both the bike and concept are. My only reservation is the lack of luggage space.

With a price from £7,149, on sale now, I can see nothing but success for Triumph and this new bike.

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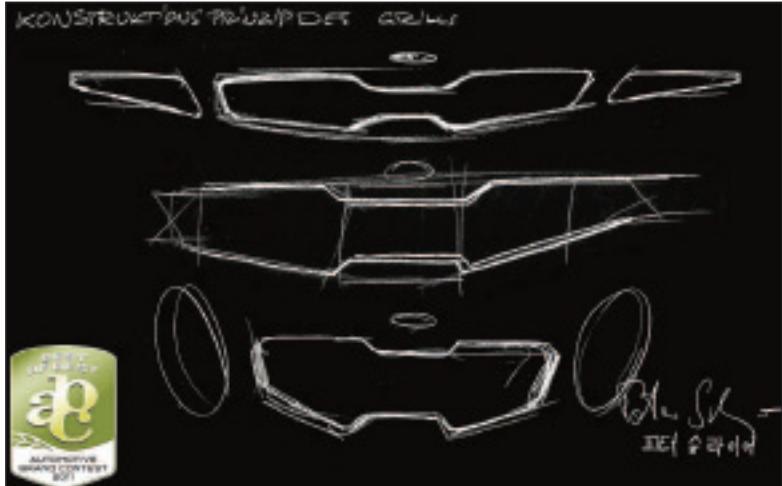
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Kia takes the honours in brand design competition



Sketches submitted by Peter Schreyer for the new Automotive Brand contest

KIA MOTORS is one of the main winners in the first Automotive Brand Contest. This new international brand and design competition was organised by the German Design Council.

The judging panel declared Kia Motors the worthy winner in four categories.

For the exterior category, in which the design and focus of the vehicle itself is the centre of attention, three Kia models were picked as winners: The compact Sportage SUV, the forthcoming Rio (on sale from September) and the athletic Design Kia Optima sedan.

Peter Schreyer, Kia's chief designer

said, "We are all exceedingly proud that Kia Motors has done so well in this new competition, which is very important within the automotive industry. By changing our basic design focus, we have given our brand a face, a distinctive identity."

Category

In the brand design category, where design and focus of the brand's overall design is rated, Kia was ranked "Best of Best".

Schreyer said: "The Best of Best title for Kia's new design identity in the brand design category is a great endorsement of the creative and professional work done by our entire inter-

national design team. The latest awards conferred on the Sportage and Optima, and the very first one to go to our latest model, the Rio, reflect the continuity of our efforts to uphold our own high design standards."

"All four awards are a fantastic acknowledgement of our strategy to position design as a core Kia brand promise," he said.

The German Design Council, organiser of the newly instituted Automotive Brand Contest, was founded in 1953 as an initiative of the German Federal Parliament, and now counts among the world's leading centres of excellence for communication and knowledge transfer in the field of design.

Korean brand spearheads UK relaunch with the 4x4 Korando



Styled by Giorgetto Giugiaro, the Korean car has European looks

SSANGYONG is ready to return to the UK with a range of high quality, top value models.

Leading the Korean brand's relaunch in September will be the new Korando crossover, offering European styling, superb versatility and efficient engineering from £16,995.

Designed for the fast growing crossover sector, the Korando offers the high riding position and all-weather, off-road ability many drivers look for as well as compact dimensions, low emissions and affordable running costs. SsangYong's advantageous pricing and comprehensive specification gives the new Korando best-in-class value compared with the Hyundai ix35, Kia Sportage, Mitsubishi ASX and Nissan Qashqai.

The key to its appeal is the renowned Italian car designer responsible for the SsangYong's looks – Giorgetto Giugiaro of Ital Design. Muscular yet svelte, the bodywork embraces a monocque platform to give highly competent off-road handling with on-road refinement.

The Korando has an on-demand four-wheel-drive system which constantly monitors the level of grip available and distributes power to the wheels that need it most.

Under normal conditions 100 per cent of the engine's torque drives the front wheels so the car can run with the efficiency of a family hatchback.

If the front tyres begin to lose traction, power is fed to the rear wheels to ensure safe, stable and dependable progress is resumed.

An all-wheel-drive lock mode delivers a 50/50 spread of torque between front and rear wheels at speeds up to 25mph, essential for low speed traction and control, such as when driving up a slippery track or off a sudden field towed a caravan or horsebox.

With a choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmissions, buyers can opt for S or ES trim in front-wheel-drive, or top of the range EX specification in four-wheel-drive. The entry level variant comes with cruise control and ESP with Hill Start Assist.

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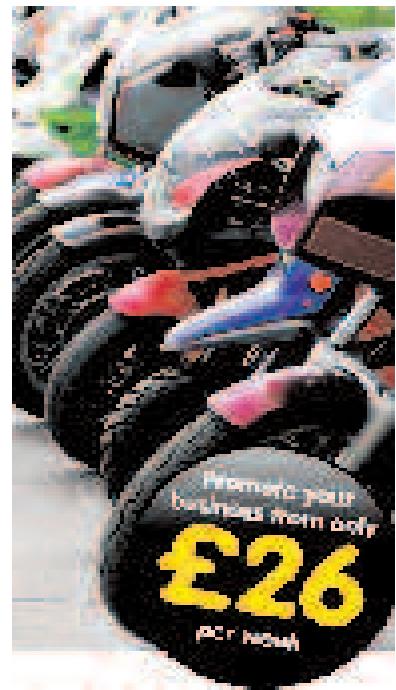
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SPORT



Adam Chambers (centre) is sent off against Boro

Boys hit six of the very best

WEDNESFIELD Boys got off to a flier in the Walsall Monday six-a-side top flight, hitting CHAFC for six with just one in reply. Jay Alscroft put in a man of the match display.

Scalers FC also started with a jolt as Ken Cartwright pulled the strings in a 5-1 drubbing of Bloxwich Youth. Luke Fox and Aaron Goodall were in fine form in Division One for Bloxwich Beasts and Louis Autos FC as they eased past FC Basil Fawley and FC Copenhagen 4-0 respectively.

Ash Smith took the plaudits for Sneyd Originals in the final tier in an 8-0 hammering, while Dan Valletta starred for Bayer Neverlulen as they humbled Bloxwich All Stars by five goals to one.

Momentum

Bren Daves was the stand out performer for Singh's Six who humbled Youth Harted 10-3.

Shower Dan FC recorded a commanding 6-3 triumph over Sportif Beacon. Lokotmotiv Kajal will be hoping their 8-0 thrashing of B Tidy FC will get their First Division season on track, while West Midlands Rangers had a convincing 5-2 defeat of Inter Ya.

University Stars were in free-scoring form, hitting Beacon Boys for six who could only reply with one, Toby Roy taking the plaudits.

Call 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net for details on the league.

Title chance for Mad Dog Maxx

A WHIRLWIND professional wrestling tour touches down in Walsall next week.

And on an evening full of international super-stars, it will be a Walsall lad who gets his chance at the big time.

Matt Powell who goes by the ring name of Mad Dog Maxx, aged 26, from Fullbrook, Walsall, will challenge for the Great British Wrestling Heavyweight Championship.

"I'm thrilled not only to receive my title shot, but also that it is going to take place in Walsall, my home town," says Mad Dog.

The event takes place on Friday 26th August, at The Saddlers Club, Banks's Stadium, Bescot Cres, Walsall, WS1 4TS. Doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each or £17.50 for a family of four. For details call 07885 763 966.

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Hero to villain as Adam red card kills cup hope

ADAM Chambers' 12th minute red card ended the Saddlers' League Cup hopes as soon as they had begun and the goal hero against Orient got his marching orders.

Rookie boss Dean Smith is on a steep learning curve. It was his team's first competitive game against a side from a higher level and, while they cracked, they didn't disgrace themselves. The much-vaulted character was evident as they refused to capitulate to a Boro side who smelled a hatful of goals.

Marvin Emnes' hat-trick may have exposed them but Walsall weren't over-

WALSALL 0 MIDDLESBOROUGH 3

awed — they just weren't as good. They won't face a team who pass and move so swiftly as Boro in League One.

From defeat, like in victory, a little perspective is needed. There won't be any outcry of anger, just one of disappointment as another shot at a cup run disappears.

Defeat is a hit and it leaves another gaping hole in the Saddlers' calendar and finances but not a surprising one.

That Smith's team failed to capitulate after Chambers walked will be of some

comfort, as will the debuts of George Bowerman and Anton Peterlin.

Midfielder Peterlin showed enough to suggest he can replace Chambers, even if the Saddlers' central three worked overtime, while striker Bowerman was lively.

Overtime

The team lacks a serious 'string-puller' in the middle, a man who can add both dynamism and continuity, and they are still a striker light.

It is too much to pile all hope on the absent Will Grigg, away with Northern

Ireland Under-21s, and it will take Ryan Jarvis time to rediscover his form.

With Alex Nicholls only used as an auxiliary forward a quick striker would give the Saddlers an extra dimension.

Walsall: Walker, Westlake, Lancashire, Butler, Sadler, Gnappa (Peterlin 15), Chambers, Tauntry, Hurst, Jarvis (Bowerman 81); Macken (Nichols 46).

Middlesbrough: Coyne, McMahon, McManus, Hines, Bennett, Hoyte, Bailey (Park, 64), Martin, Smallwood; Emnes (Williams, 56), Zemama (Miller, 20)

Walsall go down to defeat by 5 wickets

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE

HIMLEY maintained their title challenge with a crushing nine-wicket win over West Bromwich Dartmouth.

Skipper Stuart Wedge recorded 5-28 to skittle the home side out for 149 — before Chris Trainter (75 not out) and Wasim Jaffer (74 not out) guided Himley to 152-1.

Walsall lost to Barnet Green by five wickets despite Paul Byrne's 64 and 60 from Christiaan Jonker as they posted 208-9.

Barnet Green hit 212-5 to maintain their 16-point lead over Himley, and Wolverhampton enjoyed a three-wicket win over Knowle and Dorridge. Dan Bowyer's side lifted themselves out of the bottom two at Moseley's expense. They bowled the visitors out for 215 with Aaron Jeavons taking 4-37. The Staffordshire ace also hit 64 with Simon Lyttell's unbeaten 44 guiding Wolverhampton to a win.

Blow

SMETHWICK's hopes suffered a blow after they crashed to defeat at Leamington. Smethwick hit 180 before Leamington posted 182-7 in reply.

Kidderminster Victoria are still looking over their shoulders after a four-wicket defeat at home to Wellington. Kiddy finished 212-9 but Wellington hit 216-4.

Old Hill slumped to an eight-wicket defeat at Dorridge. They hit 195-9 with Jared Daniel top scoring with an unbeaten 51 but Dorridge cruised to 198-2.

Wombourne enjoyed a 152-run win over Evesham. They posted 322-6 thanks to Karl Quiney's 100 and bowled Evesham out for 170 to complete the victory.

In Division Two, Halesowen

claimed a losing draw to Whitchurch despite seeing their opponents declare on 322 without loss.

Halesowen held on at 243-8 thanks to Asif Khan (80) and Hasan Quami (50). Fordhouses had a one-wicket victory at Eastnor who were dismissed for 145. Cannock's Connor Shingler hit the winning run off the last ball to secure a two-wicket win against Bridgnorth who had posted 247-9. Jake Lehmann's 109 helped Cannock to 248-8.

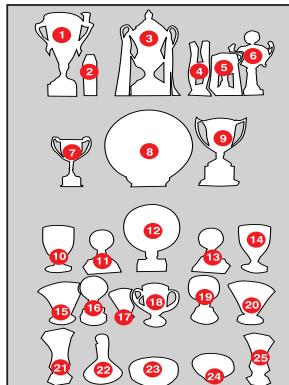
In Division Three, Brewood lost to Barnard's Green, Lichfield went down to Sutton Coldfield and Wednesbury lost by three wickets at Coleshill. Penn claimed a losing draw at Tamworth.

Ref's penalty blunder topples unlucky Wood

Saddlers so proud of their trophy cabinet



Former glories – the packed trophy cabinet at the Saddlers



1: English Riviera Cup 2004; 2: Business of the Year 2004; 3: Division 2 winners 2001; 4: Coca Cola league winners 2007; 5: Tarmac New Deal trophy; 6: Int. Jeugdtrofee 1997; 7: Harry Timmins Memorial Trophy; 8: Nationwide Division 2 runners-up trophy 1999; 9: Midlands midweek league cup; 10: Jewson 4th division award winners 1992; 11: Auto Windscreen Shield area semi final 1997; 12: Jeugdtrofee 1996 fair play trophy; 13: Auto Windscreens second round trophy 1998; 14: Jewson 3rd division Excellence award 1993; 15: BHS+T SFA England 1963; 16: Walsall v Villa 1990; 17: BHS+T SFA 1959; 18: Milk Cup outstanding achievement 1983-84; 19: League Managers Association performance of the week March 2011; 20: BHS+T SFA 1965; 21: Jewson Family Football Excellence national winner 1994; 22: Performance of the Week Wolves 1 Walsall 2 (1999); 23: 75th anniversary of the Football League; 24: Award presented to Terry Ramsden; 25: Jewson Family Football Excellence, 3rd division award winners.

WALSALL boss Dean Smith is chasing more silverware this season, but the Saddlers already have a packed trophy cabinet.

The club's last major trophy — the 2007 League Two title — sits proudly on the top shelf after Richard Money guided the Saddlers back to League One at the first attempt.

It sits next to the old Division Two play-off trophy in the season when the

Saddlers last won promotion to the Memorial Trophy, the Nationwide Division Two runners-up trophy from when Ray Graydon led the Saddlers to a shock promotion in 1999.

Stadium

Also on the top shelf is the English Riviera Cup which the youth team won in 2004, and the Walsall Business of the Year award, also from 2004.

Below them is the Harry Timmins

Memorial Trophy, the Nationwide Division Two runners-up trophy from when Ray Graydon led the Saddlers to a shock promotion in 1999.

Among the silverware on the third and fourth rows is the Auto Windscreen Shield area semi final going from 1997, the Jewson Award from 1992, and a cup to mark the first game at the new Banks's Stadium which was played in 1990 against Villa.

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ADAM GOES
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Brilliant centurions on losing side

BLOXWICH first team captain Danny King lost the toss and Springvale opted for Bloxwich to bat, writes Rachael Baker.

There wasn't a good start to the first innings for Bloxwich, with the first wicket falling in the fifth over. Pirmjit Singh scored an impressive 109 runs but Aaron Alcock not to be outdone knocked up an amazing 114, which brought Bloxwich's total up to 296 runs for 6 wickets off 42 overs. Having reached a great

**BLOXWICH 296-6 LOST TO
SPRINGVALE 297-6 BY 4 WKTS**

target Bloxwich's captain decided to declare as his batsmen had done a great job.

The second innings started off a little slower for Bloxwich but they did manage to keep all spectators on the edge of their seats.

There was a fight for dominance out in the field in the second innings as Springvale batted well

and Bloxwich were swift in the field.

Sharp catches from Aaron Alcock and Lee Bates backed up the bowling attack of Alcock, Lee Bates, Singh and King whom all took a wicket each.

Jeremy Scott returned after taking a break and took three wickets.

However Springvale won with 297 runs for 7 wickets off 57 overs.

WALSALL 2nd XI won the toss at Old Hill and elected to bowl on a wicket which looked a little bit green but Old Hill's batsmen made light of this and steadily accumulated runs.

Joe Thorn and Alex Hills put together an opening stand of 40 and then Nick Couzens (64) and Connor Smith (63) came together and a partnership of 121 helped towards a total of 233-6 as the 50 overs were completed.

In reply, Walsall soon found themselves staring defeat in the face as they

**OLD HILL 233-6 BEAT
WALSALL 2ND XI 158 BY 75 RUNS**

slumped to 47-5 in the 17th over with a blast of three wickets from Dan Jones.

The visitors put up the shutters but the hosts stuck to their task as Dan Such, Connor Smith, Jack Ellis, Nick Couzens and Jon Baig chipped away at Walsall.

With the last pair in, Jones returned to grab the last wicket with seven balls

SMITH HAPPY AS RED MIST CLEARS

Hartlepool 1 Walsall 1

NO FANFARE, no parade but a point at Hartlepool represents Walsall's unwavering, if unspectacular progress this year. This result at a venue where they have been so recently wretched is significant.

Saturday's draw at Hartlepool – the awful dismissal of Andy Butler aside – shows just where the Saddlers are heading under Dean Smith. The steady upward curve of the last eight months continues.

Walsall can be a finishing school for ambitious young managers. Succeed with a lack of cash, a high turnover of players and the odd protest against the chairman and you can succeed anywhere.

And Smith has had to learn fast. The crash course in management that was last season enhanced his reputation but also added a modicum of extra pressure.

Coming in half way through a season, he got the desired reaction. Now, with his own team, the inquisition of his skills really starts. Smith's start has been promising – four points from two games and a top six spot in the embryonic table.

League One still has its smattering of big boys but, in the main, is littered with also-rans who all believe they can mount a promotion charge. There is no chip on the Saddlers' shoulder, they know they are among the 'have-nots', but with just three 100 per cent records in the division the 'haves' aren't ones to fear.

For years their fabled inconsistency has been an Achilles heel which hampered any attempts to progress. The signs are there though that Smith and his management team have begun to rectify it.

To succeed in League One there is no need to be spectacular. Organisation and consistency is key – two of the attributes the Saddlers are threatening to display.

Smith said: "It was a good performance. The lads gave me everything, worked hard for each other, used the ball well and got into some dangerous areas, particularly in the first half. We restricted them to just a few chances and it was a pretty even game



Jon Macken puts Walsall ahead from the penalty spot at Hartlepool

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

with two determined teams going at each other.

In the end a draw was probably a fair result and it makes it an unbeaten start from our first two games.

It's important to win our home games and then come away to places like this and battle out points."

Smith added: "It was nice to see us finally get a penalty and Jon Macken took it really well. Their goal was a freakish one."

It's too early to start claiming all the ills are fixed, although many of them have, and full judgement must be reserved for another couple of months. But there is a serious sense of stability within the team.

Richard Taundry and Oliver Lancashire excelled without their senior playing partners of the suspended Adam Chambers and the unfortunate Butler at Victoria Park.

Bizarre

Question marks hung over the pair last season but they marshalled the midfield and defence expertly.

The FA should do the decent thing and rescind Andy Butler's card. The captain went into a typically full-blooded challenge with Nathan Luscombe five minutes before the break and was astoundingly dismissed.

Luscombe – who launched in off the ground – followed to ease the frustration.

Two dismissals in two games – for a couple of their most potent performers – inevitably leads to questions about discipline. With eight yellows in their three outings this season the argument about the Saddlers' over-eagerness is strengthened – but there is no problem.

The dismissals capped a fiery game which saw two goals in the opening five minutes – including the Saddlers' first penalty for almost two years.

Just three minutes had gone when Paul Murray's high foot on Mat Sadler had Tierney pointing to the spot – allowing Jon Macken to roll in his first of the season.

But the celebrations were short-lived as a rare error from Jimmy Walker two minutes later saw him fumble Scott Flinders' long clearance and Colin Nish tapped in.

It was left for referee Tierney to take centre stage with his bizarre double sending off.

Walsall: Walker, Westlake, Lancashire, Butler, Taundry, Sadler, Gnaka (Jarvis 77), Peterlin (Beever 82), Hurst, Grigg, Macken (Nicholls 60). Booked: Macken, Taundry, Gnaka. Sent off: Butler.

Hartlepool: Flinders; Austin, Hartley, Collins, Horwood (Humphreys 85); Solano (Luscombe 21), Liddle, Murray, Monkhouse; Nish, Boyd (Poole, 59). Booked: Horwood, Hartley. Sent off: Luscombe.

Attendance: 5,170. **Referee:** Paul Tierney (Lancashire).



Walsall's Claude Gnakpa rises highest against Hartlepool United



Disaster as the Hartlepool equaliser goes in after Jimmy Walker's fumble in goal

Couzens 64 not enough

WALSALL

2nd XI

vs Old Hill

233-6 vs 158

by 75 runs

WALSALL

2nd XI

158 vs Old Hill

by 75 runs

WALSALL

2nd XI

158 vs Old Hill

by 75 runs

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2nd XI

At the Centre of your Community

Brownhills Community Association - you will be amazed at what we do

Brownhills Community has relocated into the heart of Brownhills at the Activity Centre based on the Miner's Roundabout at the top end of Brownhills High Street, making us easily accessible by public transport and convenient by car.

Personal Interest classes

such as Machine Knitting and Dressmaking; Sugarcraft and Indian Cookery; Art, Mosaics and Digital Photography; Beginners Computers

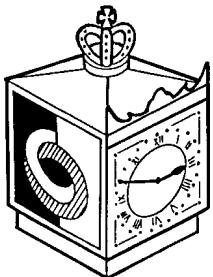
Work-Life qualification courses

covering Information, Advice and Guidance; Bookkeeping and Sage Accounts; IT and Word Processing; Support Teaching and Learning in Schools; Customer Services, Basic Food Hygiene and First Aid.

We also operate Child-Day Nurseries, Breakfast and After School Clubs, Youth Clubs, plus the Brownhills Canoe Centre.



Check out the Wide range of activities and courses in this “View and Store pull - out”.



**Brownhills Community Association
Activity Centre,
Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JW
Telephone/Fax 01543 452119**

AREA 1 PARTNERSHIP

Incorporating BROWNHILLS - CLAYHANGER - WALSALL WOOD



PERSONAL INTEREST (RECREATIONAL) COURSES

Contact the Community Team to confirm cost of a specific course.

Personal interest courses (also known as Recreational Courses) last for 10 weeks.

COURSES

Machine Knitting

Dressmaking & Crafts

Sugarcraft

Indian Cookery

Yoga

Complementary Medicine

Digital Photography

Art for All

Nail Art

Amazing Mosaics

Card Making

Flower Arranging

Introduction to Accountancy

Introduction to Payroll

Introduction to IT

Beginners Computers

Computer Maintenance

Microsoft Publisher

Microsoft Excel

Using Databases

Text Production Level 1,2 & 3

Over 50's Exercise

Woodwork & Woodturning

Dressmaking & Crafts

Whether your ultimate aim is to make a career of Fashion Design, to run your own business as a Designer/Dressmaker or maybe just to be competent at making your own or your children's clothes, then by choosing this course, you're well on your way to fulfilling your dream in Fashion Design.



Are you a fashion enthusiast?.

Sugarcraft

Cake decorating is a creatively satisfying and rewarding hobby. You will be surprised at what you can achieve in a short time. This course helps establish the basic cake decorating skills in a friendly, social atmosphere. You will learn the basic cake skills including covering a cake with Marzipan and Sugarpaste, Crimping, Embossing, Frilling and Sugar Flowers. Advanced learners will practice Celebration Cake skills including wired sugar flowers.



This course gives students confidence in the use of pastes, tools and cake-making equipment and emphasizes the importance of hygiene and health and safety requirements. So if home cooking and baking is your thing then give us a call and enrol.

Indoor Bowls

Every Monday and Wednesday, 2.00 till 4.00 p.m.
Why not come along and join us?, Make new friends, learn a new skill, keep yourself fit and have fun at the same time



Art for All

This is an informal class where people who have always wanted to paint can come together with like minded people to improve their ability and hopefully learn new aspects of art. There is no need to worry if you have not painted or drawn before - we all have to start somewhere - so why not here, in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere! All ages and abilities are welcome. We will be working in water colour and acrylic paints, in art subjects such as Folk Art (very similar to canal art), Still Life, Landscape, Christmas cards, Cross Hatching (criss cross shading using either pencil or ink).



Tuesday and Thursday
9.00 till 12.00

We want to promote healthy living and social wellbeing.

Somewhere to meet friends and have a chat.

Breakfast and refreshments at a small charge.



Daytime and evening courses

Computer courses to suit everyone

- Beginner's computers
- Greetings Cards and Calendars
- ITQ Entry Level 3
- Level 1 ITQ
- Level 2 ITQ
- Word processing
- Desktop Publishing
- Excel
- Database

Heart of the Community

Brownhills Community Association

Activity Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JW - Telephone/Fax 01543 452119

WORK-LIFE QUALIFICATIONS (VOCATIONAL)

Contact the Community Team to confirm timing, duration and cost of a specific course.

Vocational Education and Qualifications explained

Vocational qualifications can be very useful stepping-stones to many careers. There is a mounting demand for flexible, highly skilled workers who do not necessarily need to have a degree or A-levels.

Employers are advocating courses that equip people with the skills and attitudes that build business, and are recruiting those who have work experience or occupational training.

Qualifications can be classified into three types – general, vocational and occupational. General qualifications are focused on a specific subject, for example, school GCSE's. Vocational qualifications provide a broad introduction to a particular vocational area such as manufacturing, art and design, or health and social care. Occupational qualifications are related to a specific job and are based on the knowledge and skills needed in that career. Many people combine different types of qualification to suit their own goals.



Advice and Guidance Level 3 and 4



If your job involves helping and advising others, these qualifications can help you develop your skills and progress at work. You'll cover topics from administration and referrals to providing advice, guidance and information services.

There are options to suit any level, from people working in administrative roles to those with a great deal of experience as advisors.

An OCR qualification is proof that you have the right skills to do your job well - which is why so many employers look for people who have one. You can be confident your qualification is well respected within your industry.

Support Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 2 and 3

These NVQ's are designed to reflect the work of candidates who provide direct support for teaching and learning in any type of school – primary, secondary, special or pupil referral units, at Level 2 and 3.



It covers the traditional teaching assistant role but has been broadened in scope to include new roles and responsibilities such as cover supervision, exam invigilation, pastoral care and others. The level 2 NVQ (NQF) could be used by volunteer workers within the schools provided they cover sufficient breadth of responsibilities for supporting teaching and learning.

COURSES

Advice & Guidance – Level 3 and 4

Bookkeeping (Manual)

Sage Accounts

Payroll

ITC Entry Level 3

IT – Levels 1 and 2

Word Processing

Support Teaching and Learning in Schools

Customer Services

First Aid at Work

Paediatric First Aid

Basic Food Hygiene

Jobseeking and Career Planning Skills



Rehearsals every Sunday
2.00 – 5.00 pm

Children aged
8 to 18 years

2 Musicals per year



If you are interested
please telephone
01543 452119

WANTED

Brownhills Community Association requires volunteers to join their committee. Do you have enthusiasm, dedication and of course time to spare each month to help promote the activities and interests for people in the Brownhills and surrounding areas. This is your opportunity to have a say in the way the community is shaped and administered.

Activity Centre Room Hire

Meetings, Seminars,

Weddings,
Anniversaries and parties

Children's parties
(Bouncy castle hire available)

Catering available
(Please ask to see menu)

Heart of the Community

Brownhills Community Association

Activity Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JW - Telephone/Fax 01543 452119

You will be amazed at what we do

Contact the Community Team to confirm days, times and availability.

Church Street, Clayhanger, Brownhills

Tele: 01543 360623

Email: littlegreendragons@hotmail.co.uk

We are a 38 place Day Nursery with a friendly, stimulating and fun environment. All children's needs catered for from 6 weeks to 5 years. Fully qualified staff. Large secure outdoor play area. Secure outdoor baby play area.

Healthy and freshly prepared home cooked meals.

We are open Monday to Friday 8.00a.m. to 5.30p.m. Full and part-time sessions available.

Unable to get a nursery place for your child? We have free sessions available in our pre-school for children age 3 to 5 years, with funding from the Early Years grant.



Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall

Tele: 01543 361700

Email: jack-jill@live.co.uk

We are a 26 place Day Nursery with a friendly, stimulating and fun environment.

All children's needs catered for from 6 weeks to 5 years. Fully qualified staff. Secure outdoor play area.

Secure and separate outdoor baby play area. Healthy and freshly prepared home cooked food.



We are open Monday to Friday 7.30a.m. to 5.30p.m.

Full and part time sessions available.

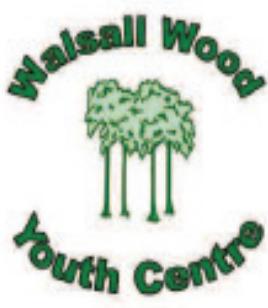
Pre-school funded sessions available age 3 – 5 yrs.

Breakfast and After School Clubs and School Holiday Play Schemes

Before and After school clubs are held within the Brownhills, Walsall Wood and Clayhanger area at local schools. Available to children aged 5 to 11 years. All children are welcome, we especially accommodate children of working parents, but we also have places for children to stay on after school to join in the fun.

We have table activities, games, computer games, outside activities and lots more – weather permitting!

Contact the Brownhills Community Team on 01543 452119.



LUA GAR KUEN



Monday 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.
Age 6 upwards – Adults

Training with us will help:
Fitness and strength
Health and flexibility
Self-confidence and self-esteem
Learn self-defence techniques
Training in traditional Chinese weaponry

Enrolment – please phone 01543 452119 Monday 22nd to Friday 26th August 2011

Brownhills Community Association is an independent, self-funding, non-profit making registered charity. Formed in 1981 to promote the wellbeing of the Brownhills community and its immediate area. Our aim is to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare, recreation, leisure and education.

Numerous clubs and groups meet regularly as a result of activities or courses organized by Brownhills Community Association, offering a wide range of interests to suit everyone. Why not call in and see us, we will be happy to let you know what's on in the Activity Centre or other centres and supply you with any information you require.

Brownhills Community Association

Activity Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JW - Telephone/Fax 01543 452119

Heart of the Community